

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No 119

20p

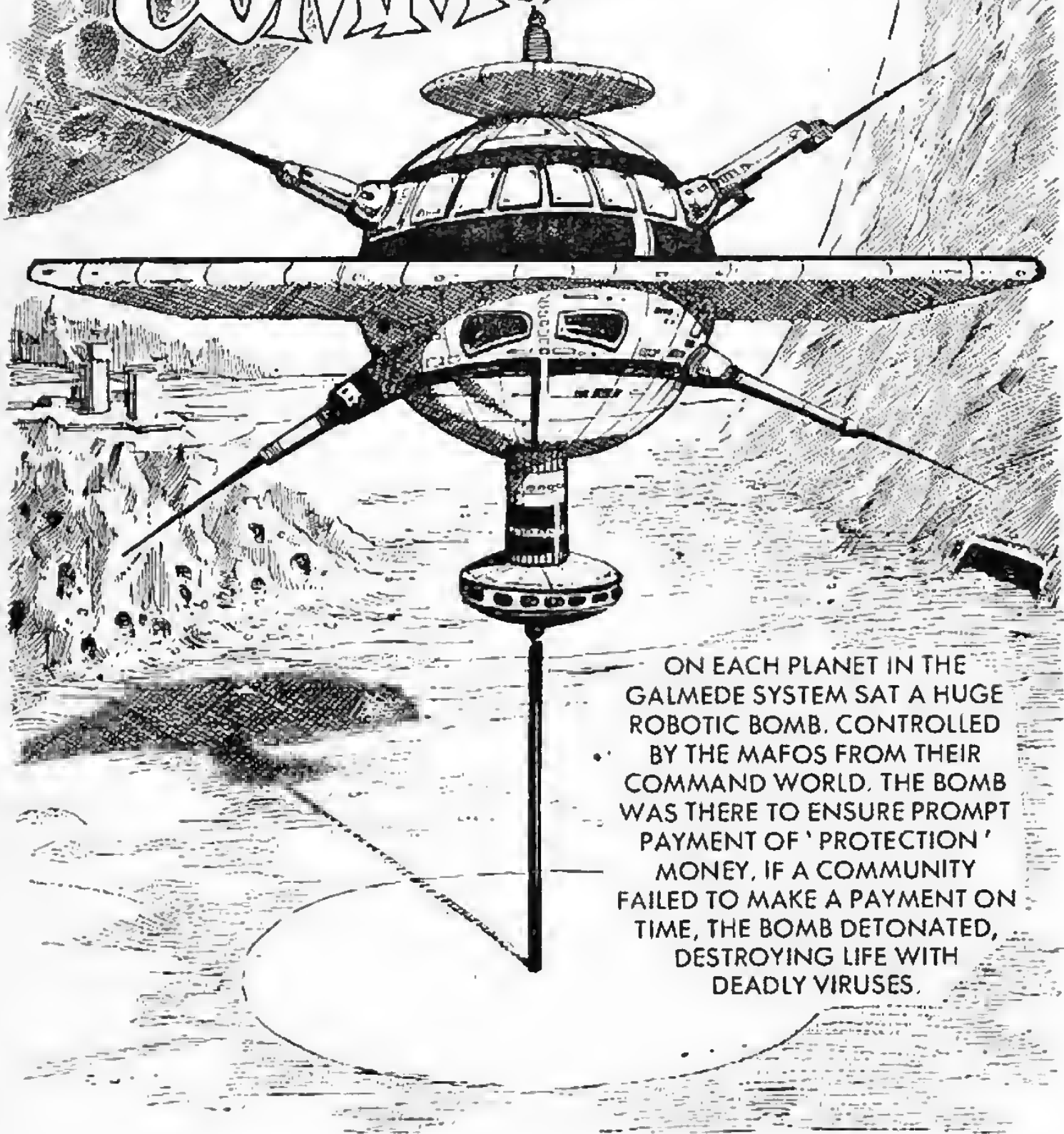
A dynamic comic book illustration for the Starblazer series. In the foreground, a character in a red helmet and green and yellow suit is shown in a dynamic pose, holding a green blaster. The background features a large, complex space station or city structure with multiple levels and a prominent central tower. A large, blue, mechanical arm or structure is visible on the left side. The sky is filled with orange and yellow flames or explosions. The overall style is reminiscent of classic comic book art.

COSMIC COMMANDOS

STARBLAZER

AS MAN SPREAD HIS INFLUENCE ACROSS THE GALAXY AND SETTLED THE NEWLY-FOUND PLANETS, GALACTIC LAW ENFORCEMENT BECAME AN IMPOSSIBILITY. THE NEW-WORLDEERS WERE ON THEIR OWN. MOST PROBLEMS THEY COULD HANDLE, BUT IN THE GALMEDE SYSTEM OF PLANETS, THE EVIL MAFOS WERE IN CONTROL. ALL PLANETS HAD TO PAY 'PROTECTION' MONEY, AND AFTER YEARS OF PAYING THE NEW-WORLDEERS WERE GETTING SO DESPERATE THAT THEY SOUGHT THE AID OF—

COSMIC COMMANDOS



ON EACH PLANET IN THE GALMEDE SYSTEM SAT A HUGE ROBOTIC BOMB. CONTROLLED BY THE MAFOS FROM THEIR COMMAND WORLD. THE BOMB WAS THERE TO ENSURE PROMPT PAYMENT OF 'PROTECTION' MONEY. IF A COMMUNITY FAILED TO MAKE A PAYMENT ON TIME, THE BOMB DETONATED, DESTROYING LIFE WITH DEADLY VIRUSES.

WHEN THE NEW WORLDERS HAD PAID, MAFOS THUGS RESET THE BOMB WITH A SPECIAL CODE-KEY. ON CIRRUS, ONE OF THE NEW-WORLDERS HAD HAD ENOUGH!

WE'RE GOING TO DESTROY THE BOMB! ARE YOU WITH US?

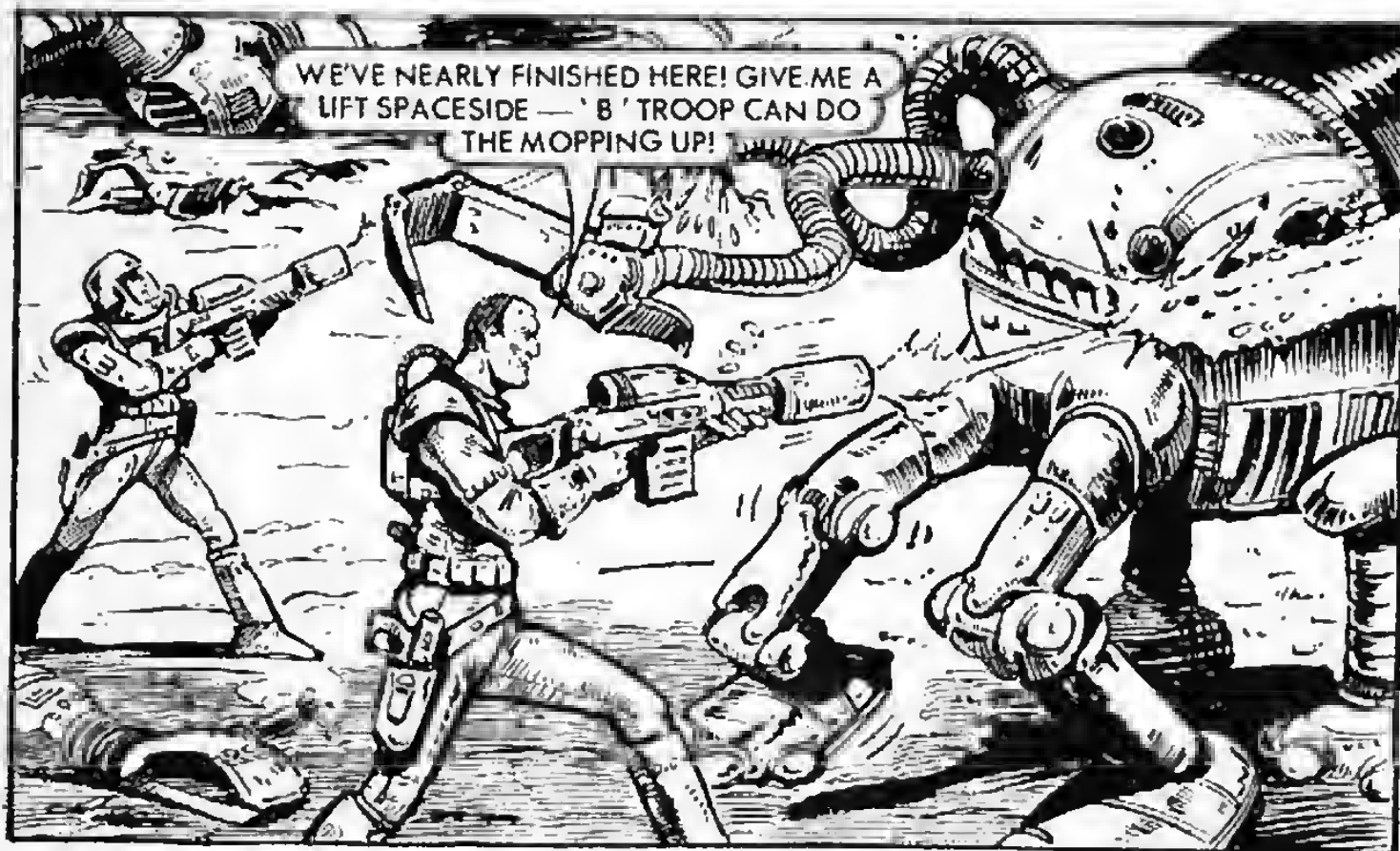
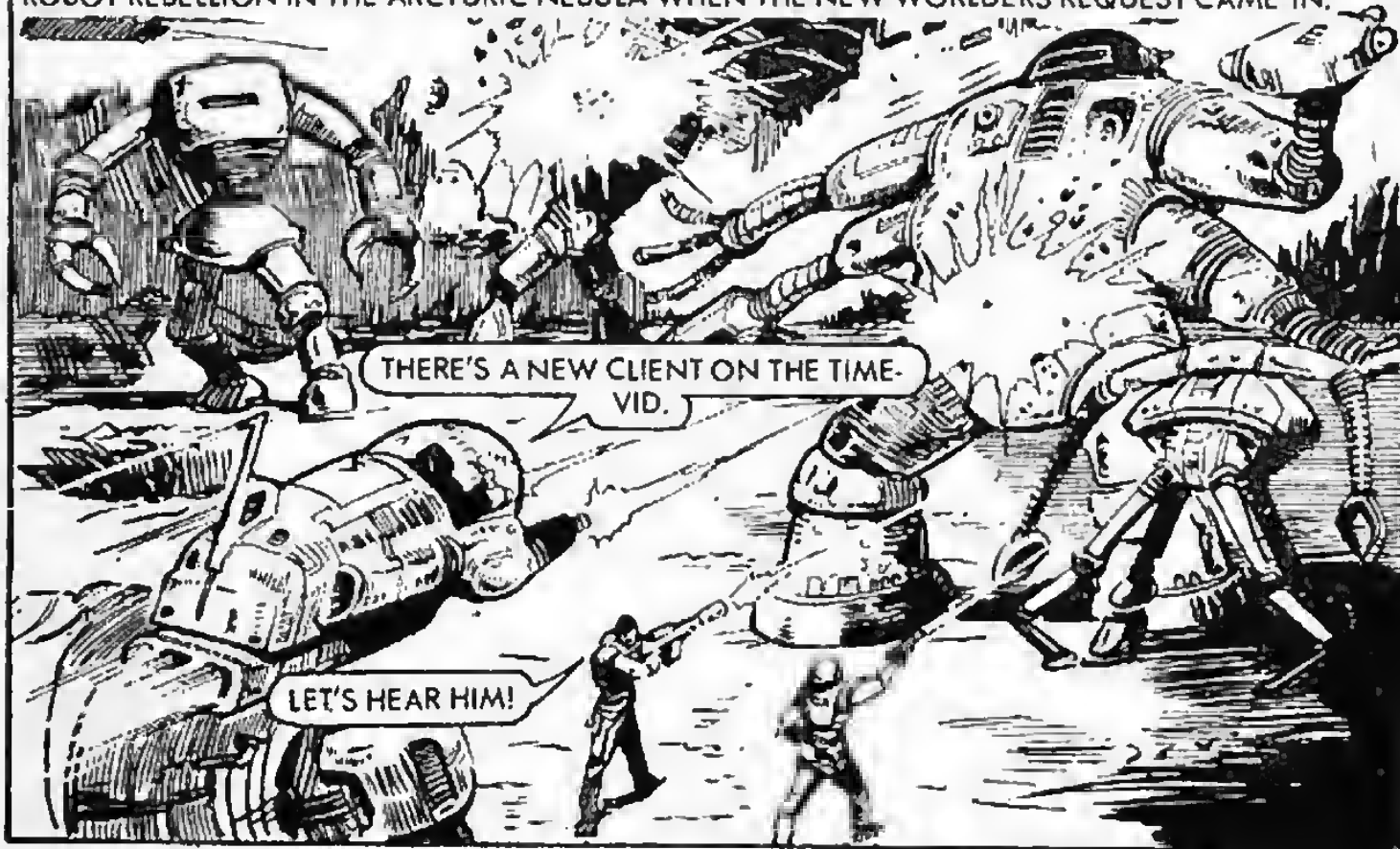
DON'T BE STUPID! IT'S FORBIDDEN TO GO NEAR IT—YOU'LL KILL US ALL! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN GALMEDE 8?

OUT OF OUR WAY! C'MON, IT'S TIME MEN STARTED RUNNING THIS PLANET!





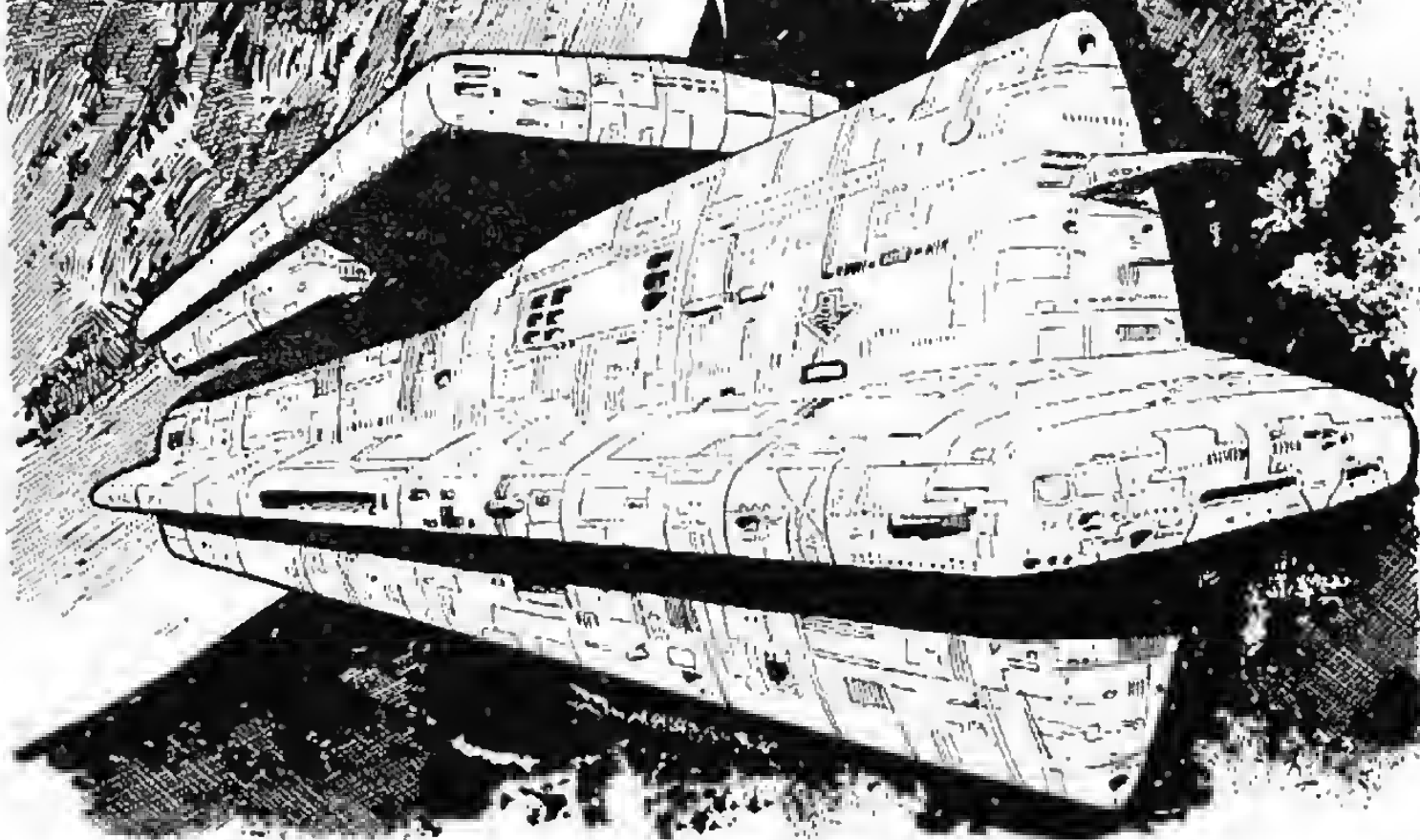
HELP CAME FROM COSMIC COMMANDOS WHO WORKED IN AREAS THE SPACE PATROL COULD NOT. BEST OF THE LEADERS WAS KONRAD. HIS MEN WERE QUELLING A ROBOT REBELLION IN THE ARCTURIC NEBULA WHEN THE NEW-WORLDEERS REQUEST CAME IN.



ON BOARD HIS ORBITING BATTLE STATION, KONRAD HEARD THE NEW WORLDERS—

WE'VE GOT A PROFILE ON MAFOS
IN OUR MEMORY BANKS—THEY
DON'T COME MORE EVIL THAN THEM.

BUT CAN YOU DEAL WITH OUR
PROBLEM?



TELL ME ABOUT THE BOMB. WHEN I'VE FOUND
ITS WEAKNESS, I'VE FOUND THE ANSWER!



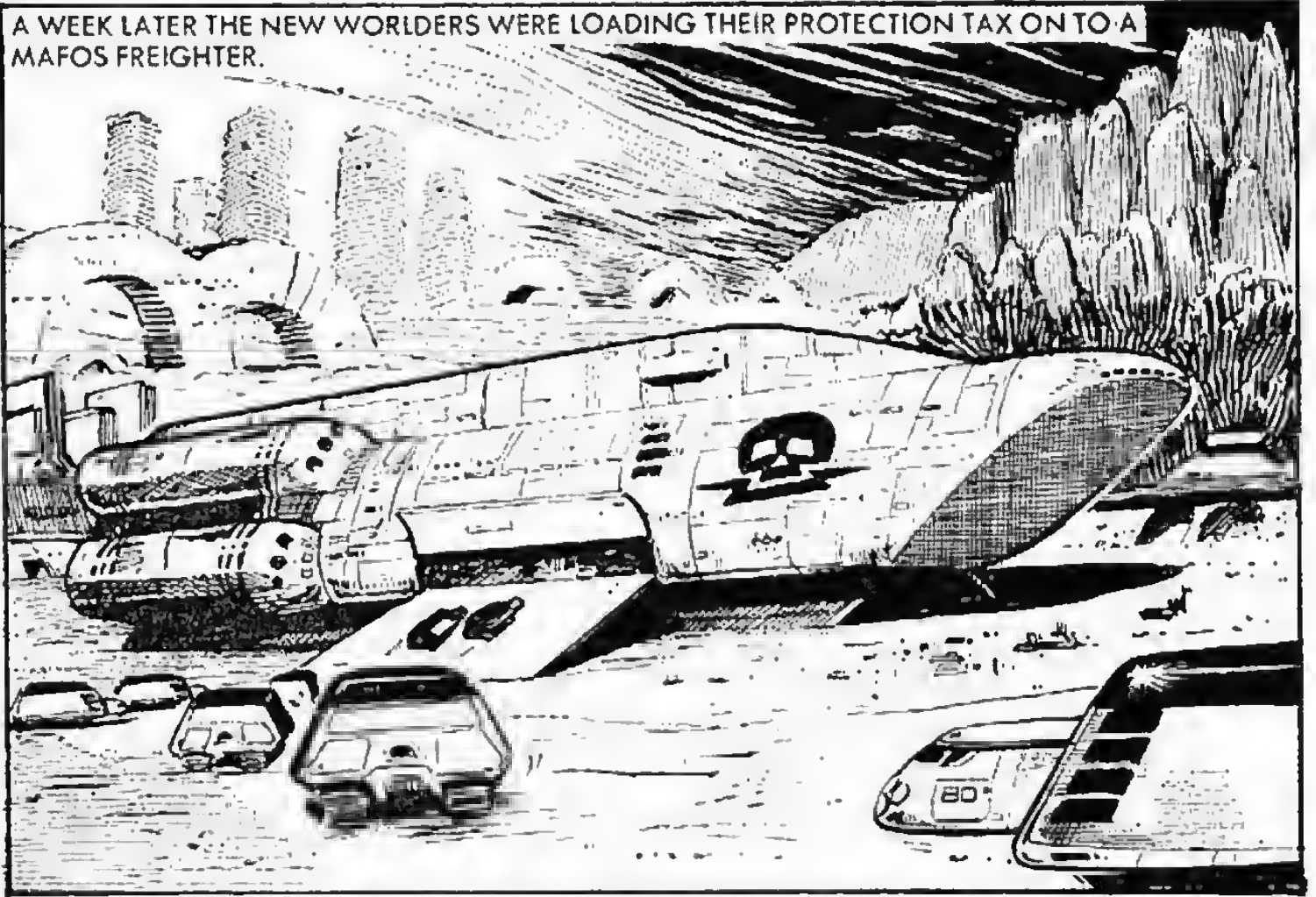
THERE ARE NO WEAKNESSES! ANY SERIOUS
THREAT AND IT WILL DESTRUCT! IF WE NUKED
IT, THE VIRUS WOULDN'T BE TOUCHED!



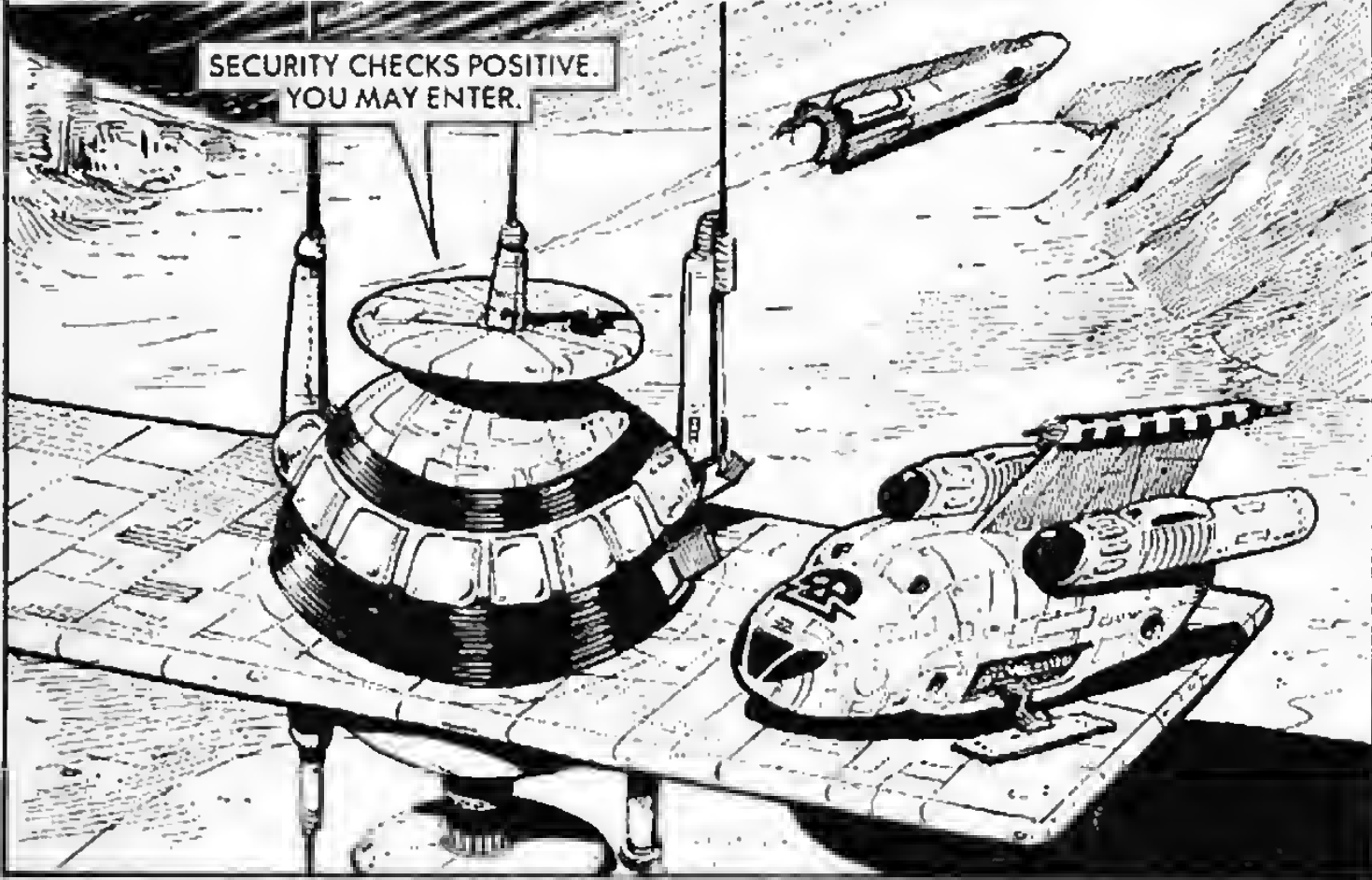
TWO RAIDER SHIPS WERE SELECTED AND KONRAD BLURRED OUT TO GALMEDE 1.



A WEEK LATER THE NEW WORLDERS WERE LOADING THEIR PROTECTION TAX ON TO A MAFOS FREIGHTER.



AS THE FREIGHTER LIFTED INTO SPACE, A SHUTTLE LANDED ON THE BOMB.



CODE-KEY ACCEPTED.
DE-ACTIVATING NOW. YOU
HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL.

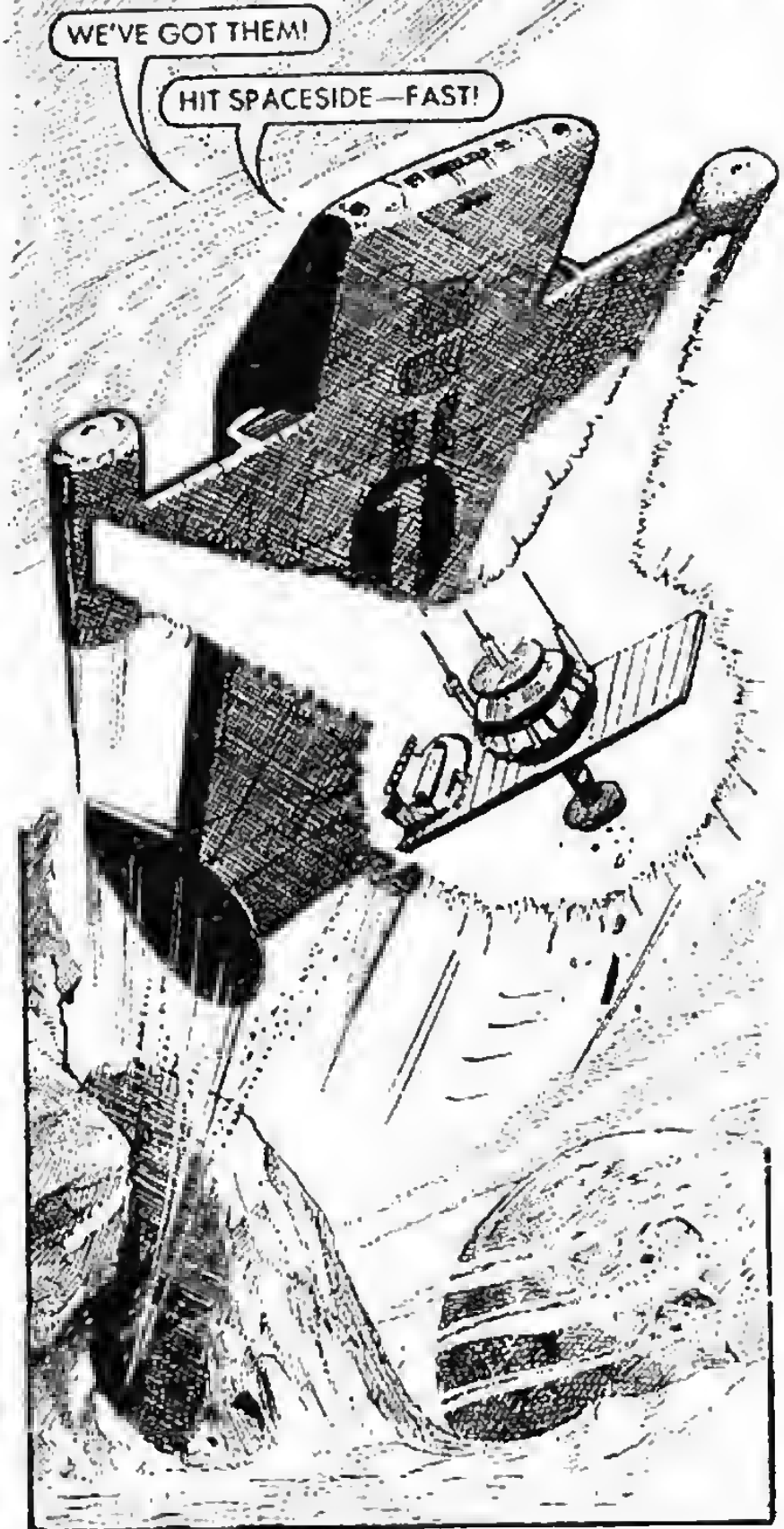
GOOD! THIS SHOULDN'T
TAKE LONG!



BEFORE THE SHUTTLE PILOT COULD
RESET THE BOMB, RAIDER ONE
BLASTED FROM HIDING —



TWO SECONDS LATER TRACTION-CLAMP BEAMS
RIPPED THE BOMB AND SHUTTLE FROM THE
GROUND —

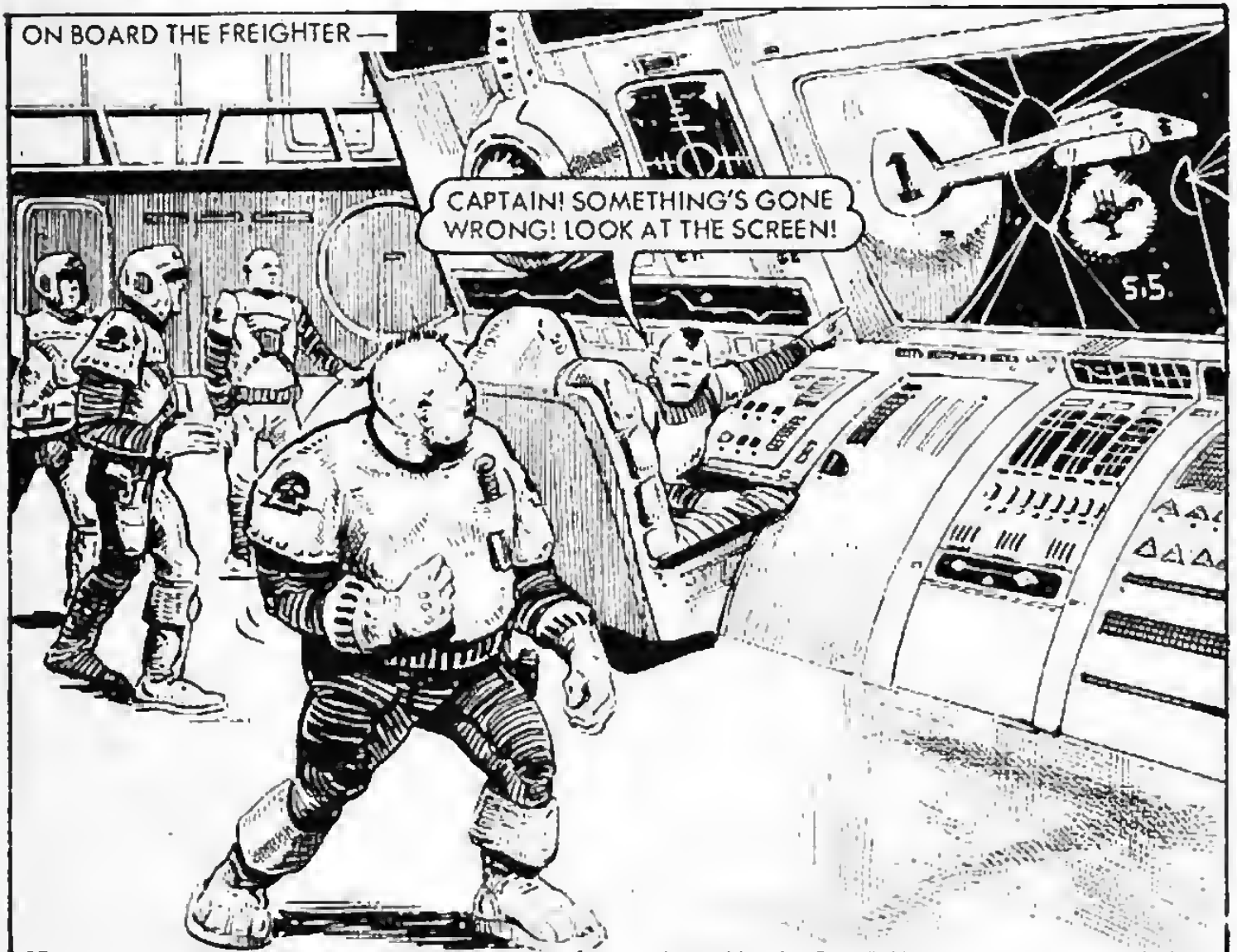


CLEARING ATMOSPHERE NOW!

HE WON'T BLOW THE BOMB. HE'S PUTTING
SELF-PRESERVATION FIRST — IT'S WHAT I'VE
BEEN GAMBLING ON!

ON BOARD THE FREIGHTER —

CAPTAIN! SOMETHING'S GONE
WRONG! LOOK AT THE SCREEN!



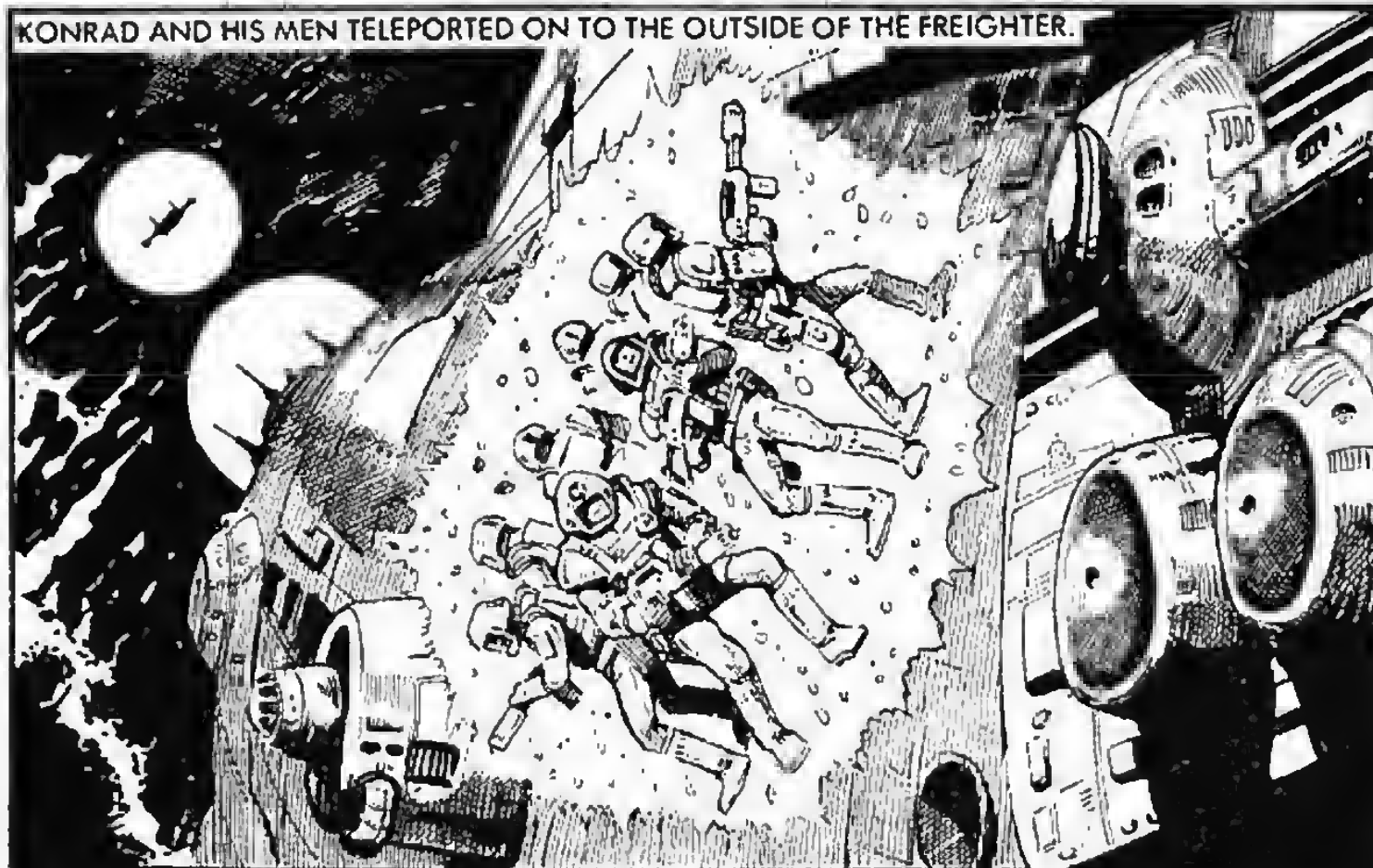
ALTHOUGH THE BOMB WAS ON
AUTODESTRUCT, IT EXPLODED IN
THE SAFE VACUUM OF SPACE.



SQUAD ONE TO THE TELEPORT! I WANT
THAT FREIGHTER!



KONRAD AND HIS MEN TELEPORTED ON TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE FREIGHTER.



AN AIRLOCK WAS LOCATED AND BREACHED —

THE CONTROL CENTRE'S
THIS WAY!



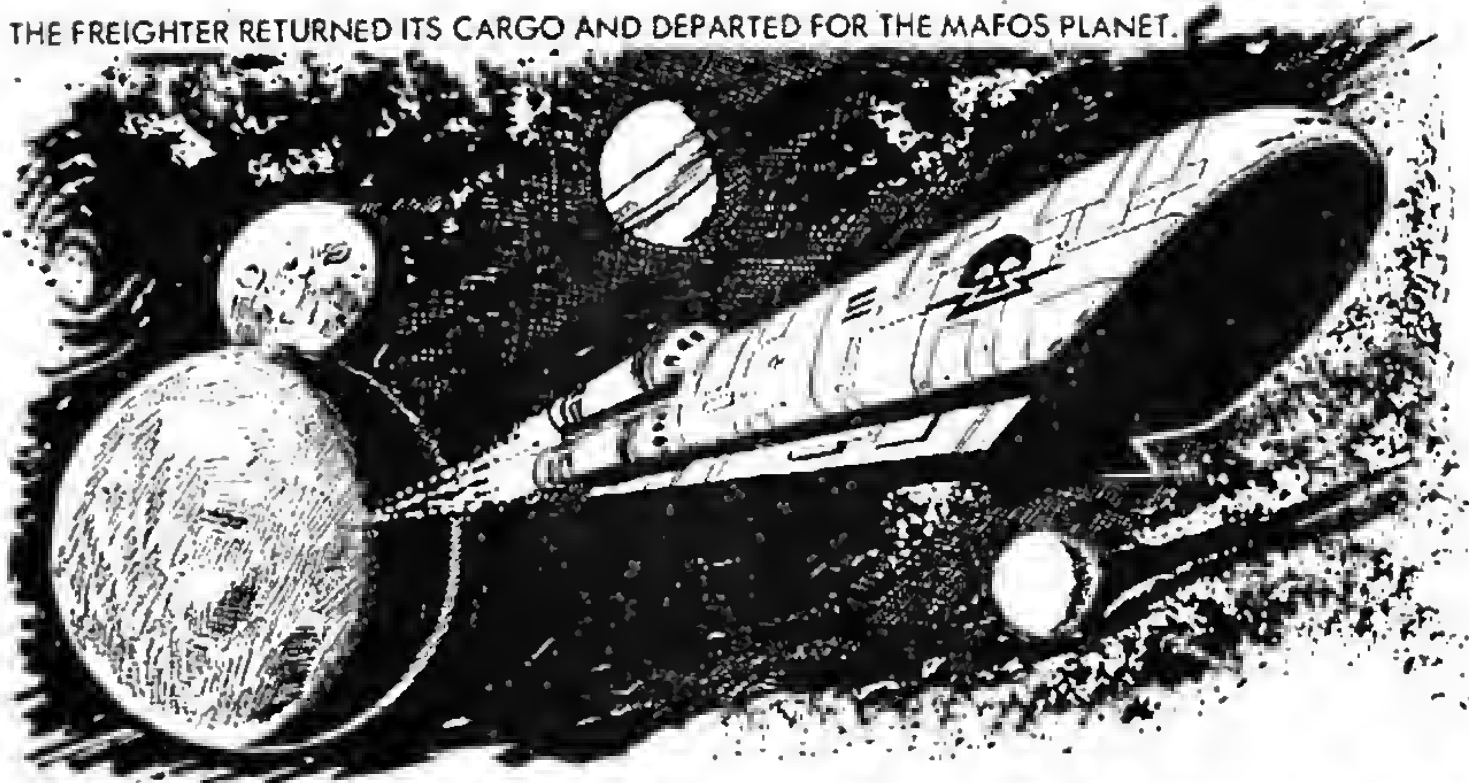
THEY BLITZED ALONG THE SHIP CARVING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE OPPOSITION —

SURRENDER — OR DIE!





THE FREIGHTER RETURNED ITS CARGO AND DEPARTED FOR THE MAFOS PLANET.

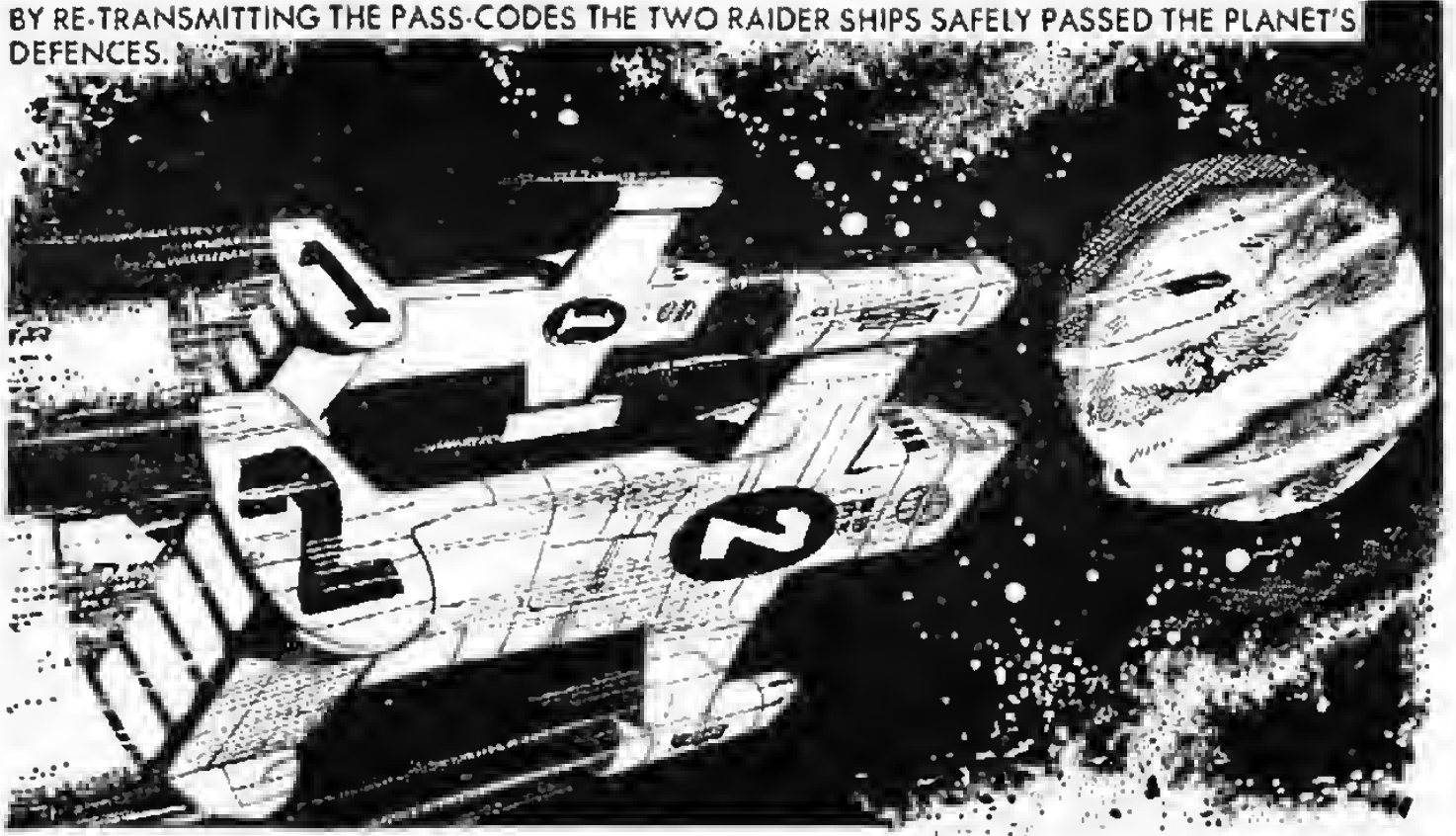


HAVE THEY DISCOVERED WE'RE FOLLOWING THEM?

NO! THE SPY DEVICE WE PLANTED ON THE FREIGHTER IS HIDING OUR PRESENCE! THEY'RE TRANSMITTING PASS-CODES TO THE PLANET. THE SPY-D IS COPYING THEM INTO OUR COMPUTERS.



BY RE-TRANSMITTING THE PASS-CODES THE TWO RAIDER SHIPS SAFELY PASSED THE PLANET'S DEFENCES.



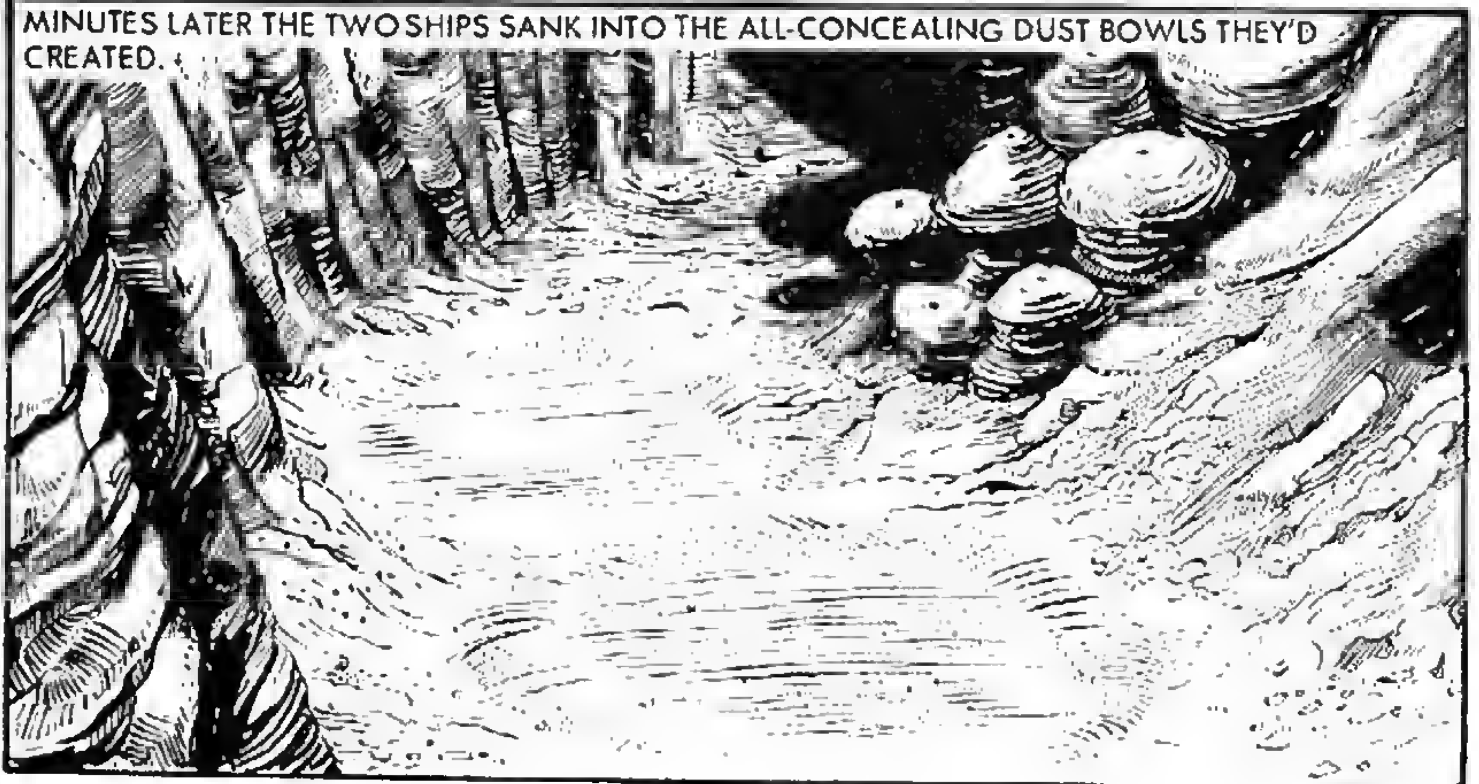
THE UNSUSPECTING FREIGHTER CAPTAIN LANDED HIS SHIP AT THE CAPITAL.



A HUNDRED MILES AWAY THE RAIDERS HOVERED — THEIR SHORT-RANGE SONIC-DISINTEGRATORS VIBRATING HARD ROCK TO DUST.



MINUTES LATER THE TWO SHIPS SANK INTO THE ALL-CONCEALING DUST BOWLS THEY'D CREATED.



THE FREIGHTER CAPTAIN REPORTED TO DONATO, THE MAFOS LEADER.

YOU FOOL! YOU'VE ALMOST
CERTAINLY BEEN TRICKED! THEY'VE
USED YOU AS A DECOY TO GET
HERE!



TAKE THIS MORON AWAY AND PUT THE
CITY ON FULL ALERT!



MEANWHILE KONRAD WAS PREPARING TO LEAVE HIS SHIPS —

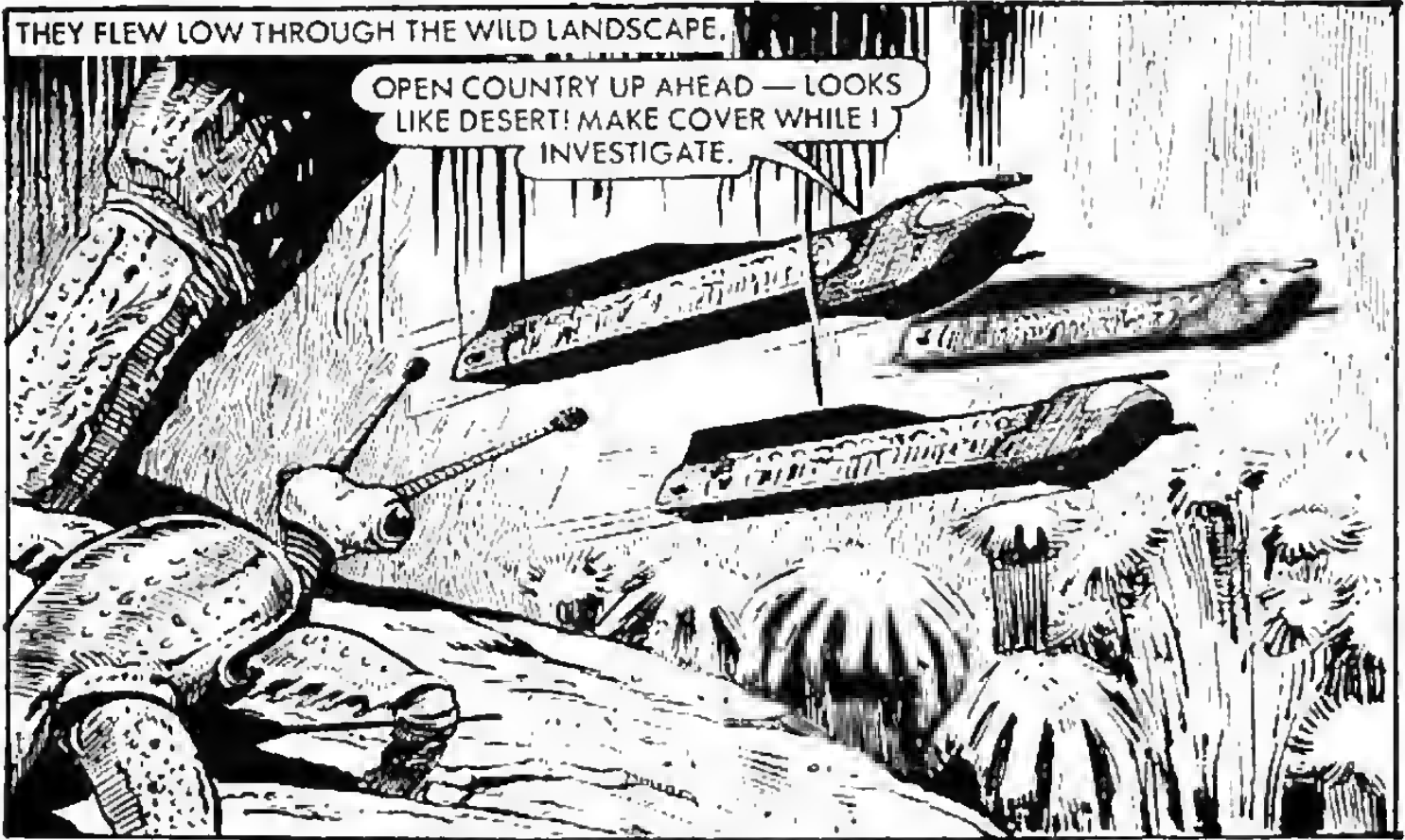
THE SHIPS ARE OPERATING THEIR SENSOR SHROUDS, AND THE MEN ARE ALL READY ON THE SKY-SLEDS!

THEN LET'S MOVE OUT.



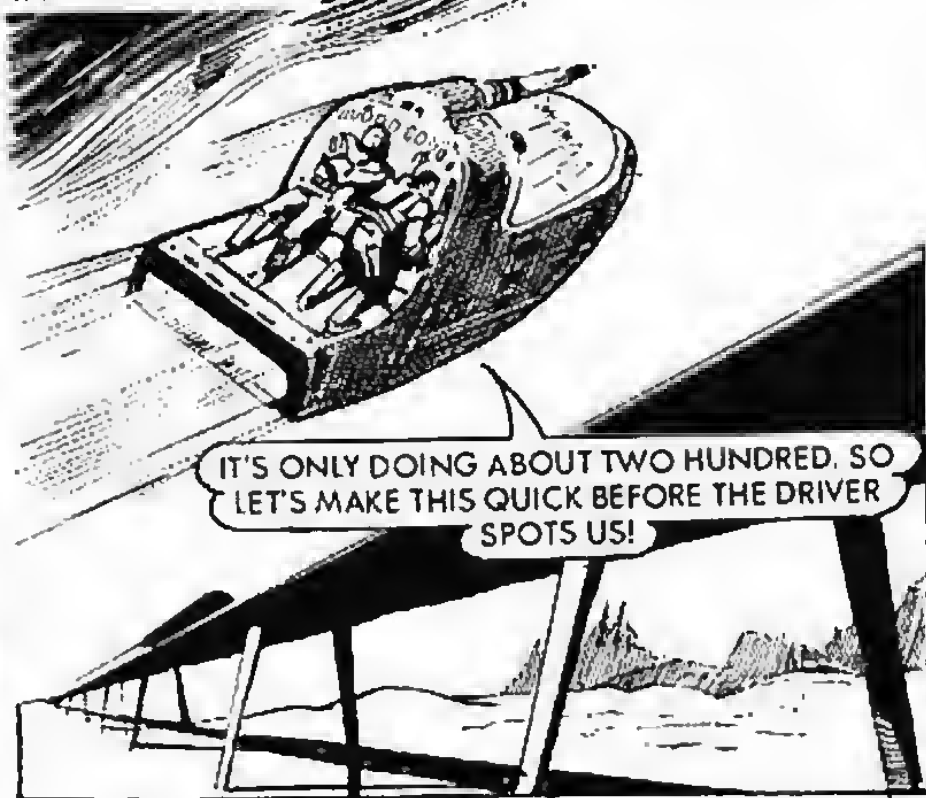
THEY FLEW LOW THROUGH THE WILD LANDSCAPE.

OPEN COUNTRY UP AHEAD — LOOKS LIKE DESERT! MAKE COVER WHILE I INVESTIGATE.





KONRAD AND HARA WAITED UNTIL THE RIGHT TRANSPORTER APPEARED, THEN RODE THE UNIT ON AN INTERCEPT COURSE.



SECONDS LATER KONRAD FIRED A STUN BOLT INTO THE UNSUSPECTING MAFOS DRIVER.



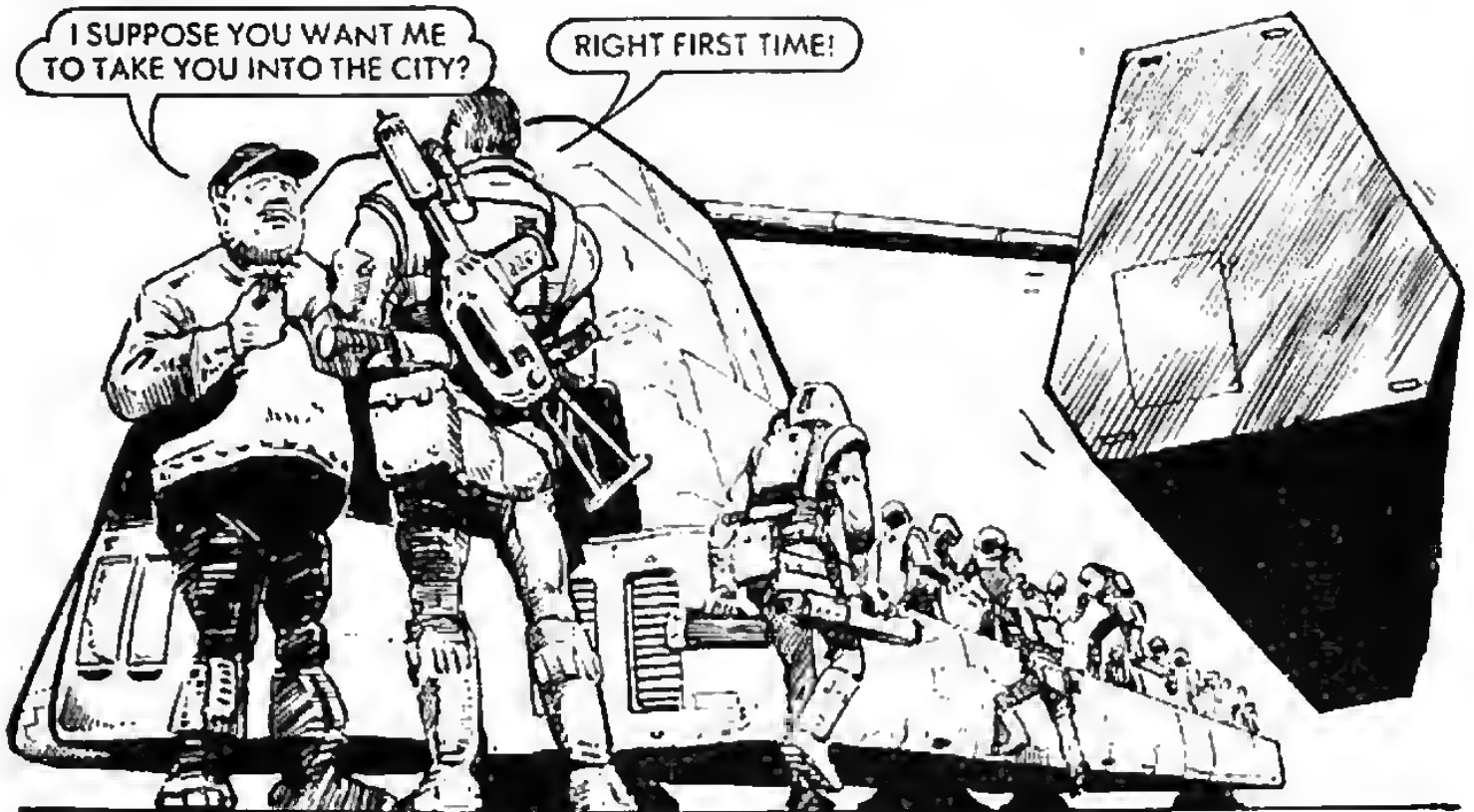
GOT HIM
FIRST TIME!

AUTO BRAKES WILL
STOP THE TRUCK!

THE DRIVER RECOVERED TO FIND HIS CARGO BEING DUMPED IN FAVOUR OF A GROUP OF COMMANDOS.

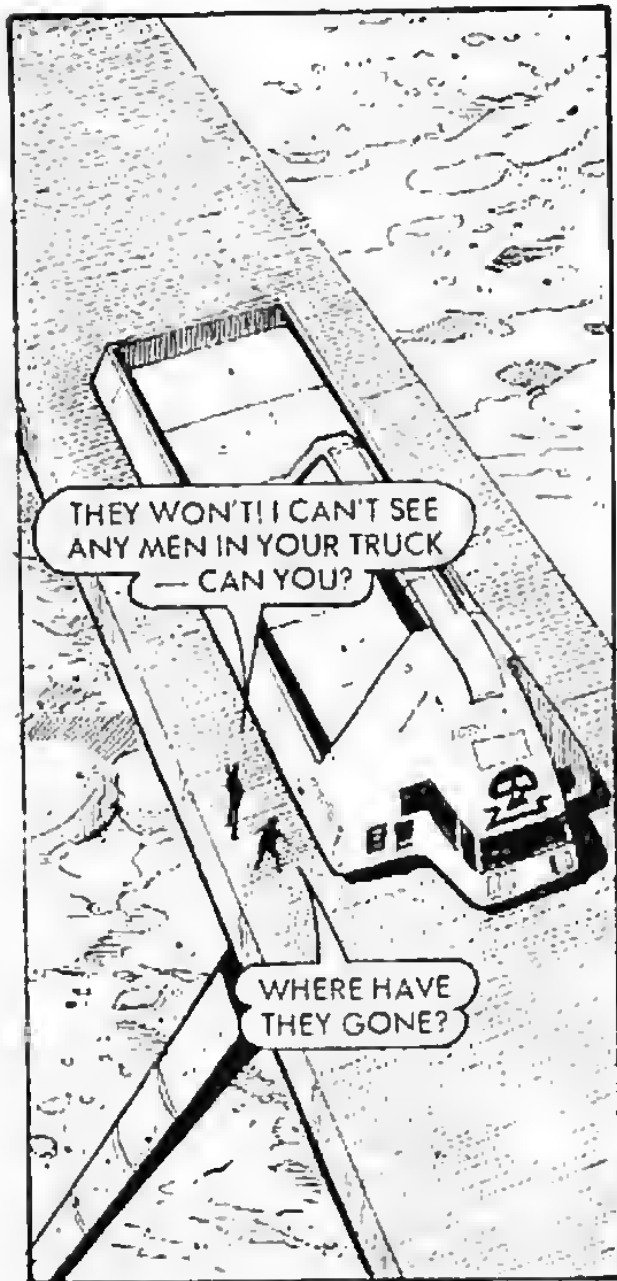
I SUPPOSE YOU WANT ME
TO TAKE YOU INTO THE CITY?

RIGHT FIRST TIME!

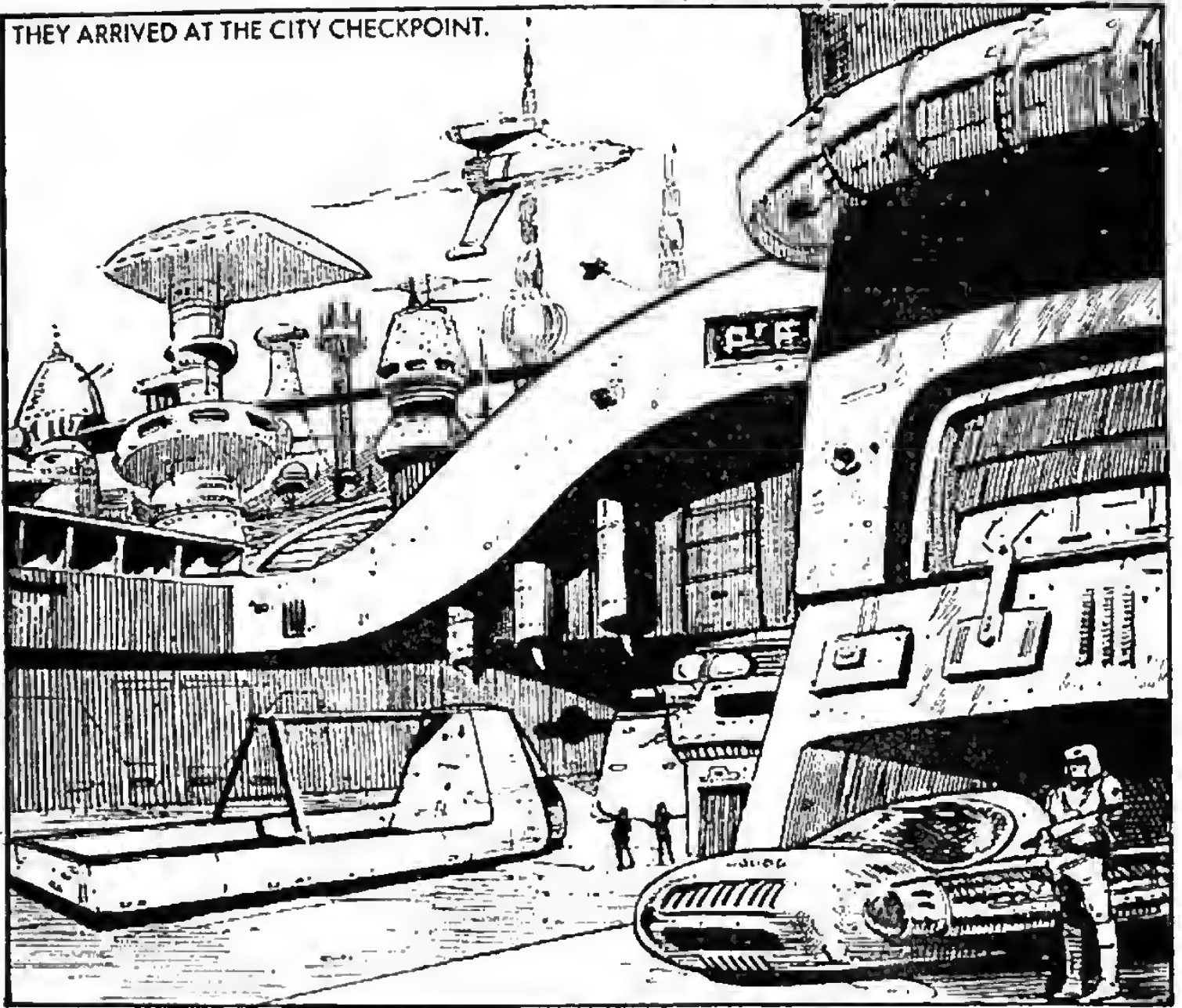


I'VE FITTED AN EXPLOSIVE COLLAR
AROUND YOUR NECK! ONE FALSE
MOVE AND I'LL DETONATE IT ...

OKAY, OKAY! I'LL DO AS YOU SAY, B-BUT YOUR
MEN WILL BE SPOTTED AT THE FIRST
SECURITY CHECKPOINT!



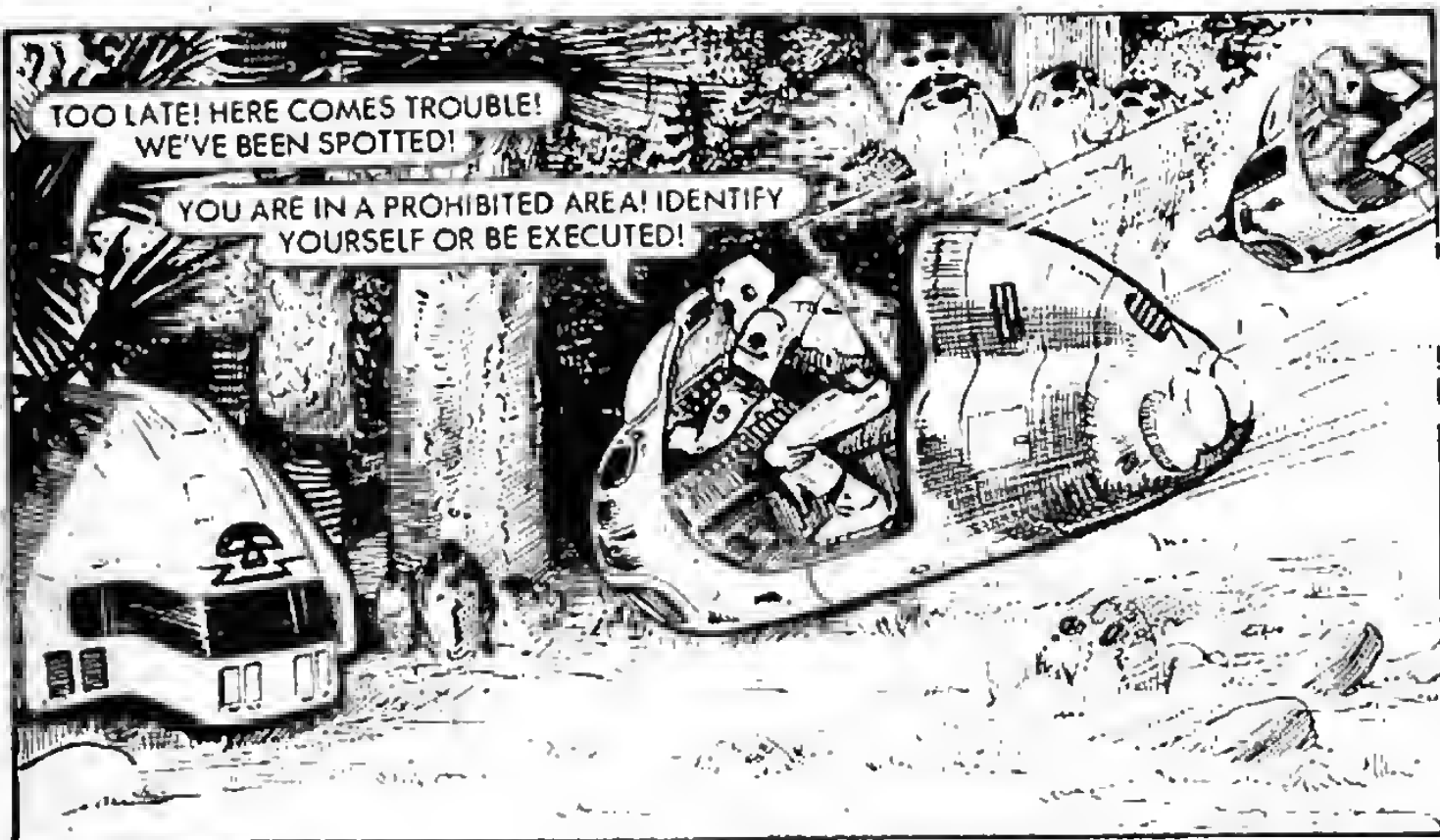
THEY ARRIVED AT THE CITY CHECKPOINT.



YOU'RE CLEAN! MOVE
IT OUT, DRIVER.

YES, SIR!





TOO LATE! HERE COMES TROUBLE!
WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED!

YOU ARE IN A PROHIBITED AREA! IDENTIFY
YOURSELF OR BE EXECUTED!

THE COMMANDOS BURST FROM UNDER COVER OF THEIR CHAMELEON CLOAKS.



MINUTES LATER ALL LAY HIDDEN WHILE KONRAD WAS PLOTTING HIS ROUTE INTO THE BUILDING.



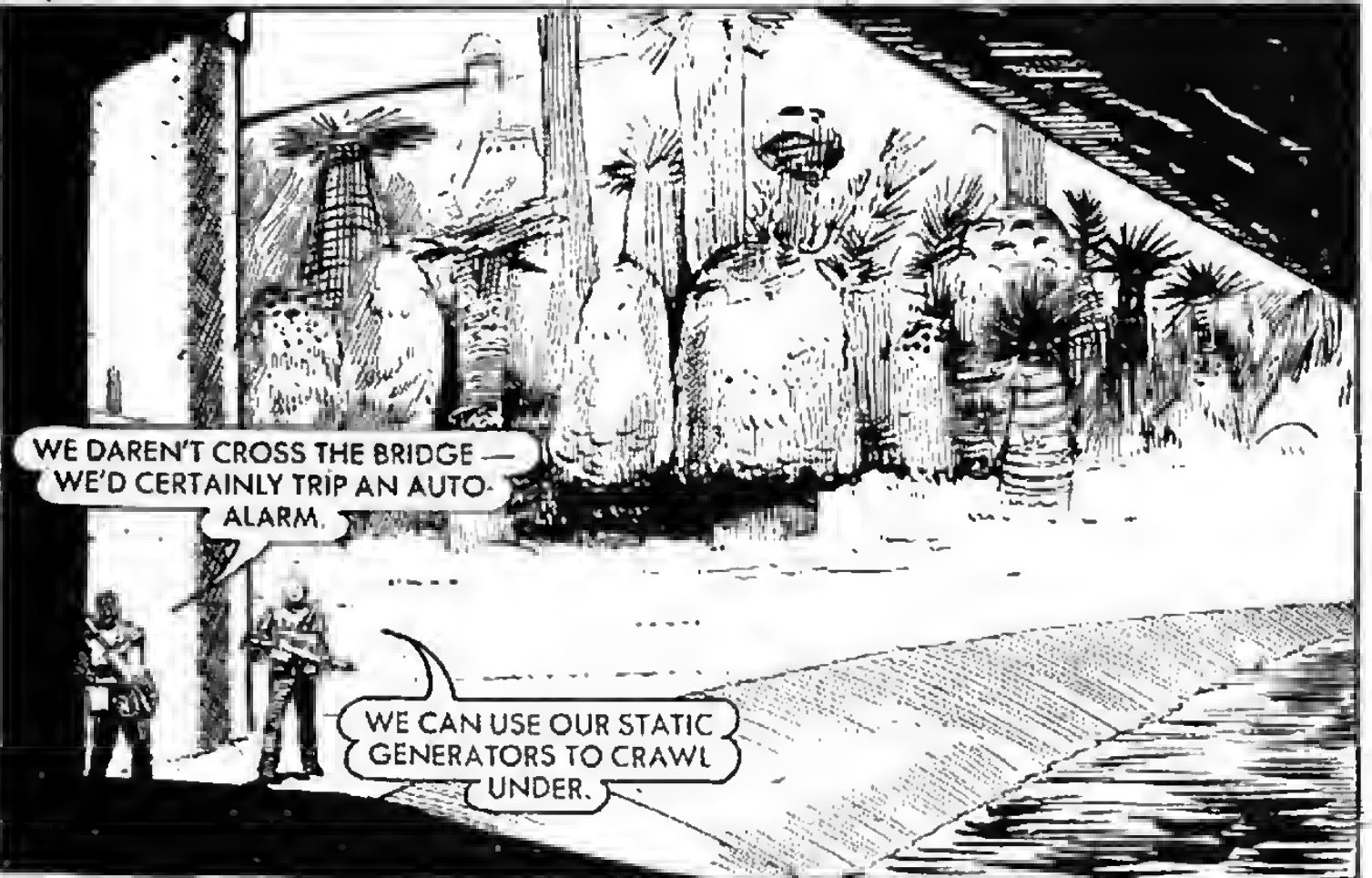
AS THE BUGS HOMED IN AND FIRED THEIR DARTS, THE MAFOS GUARDS FROZE UNABLE TO MOVE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER,
XYOL, ARE YOU ...



WE DAREN'T CROSS THE BRIDGE —
WE'D CERTAINLY TRIP AN AUTO-
ALARM.

WE CAN USE OUR STATIC
GENERATORS TO CRAWL
UNDER.



THE STATIC GENERATOR UNITS CHARGED THEM SO THAT THEY STUCK TO THE BRIDGE LIKE PAPER TO A COMB.

ANOTHER TEN YARDS AND WE'LL BE AT THE WALL.

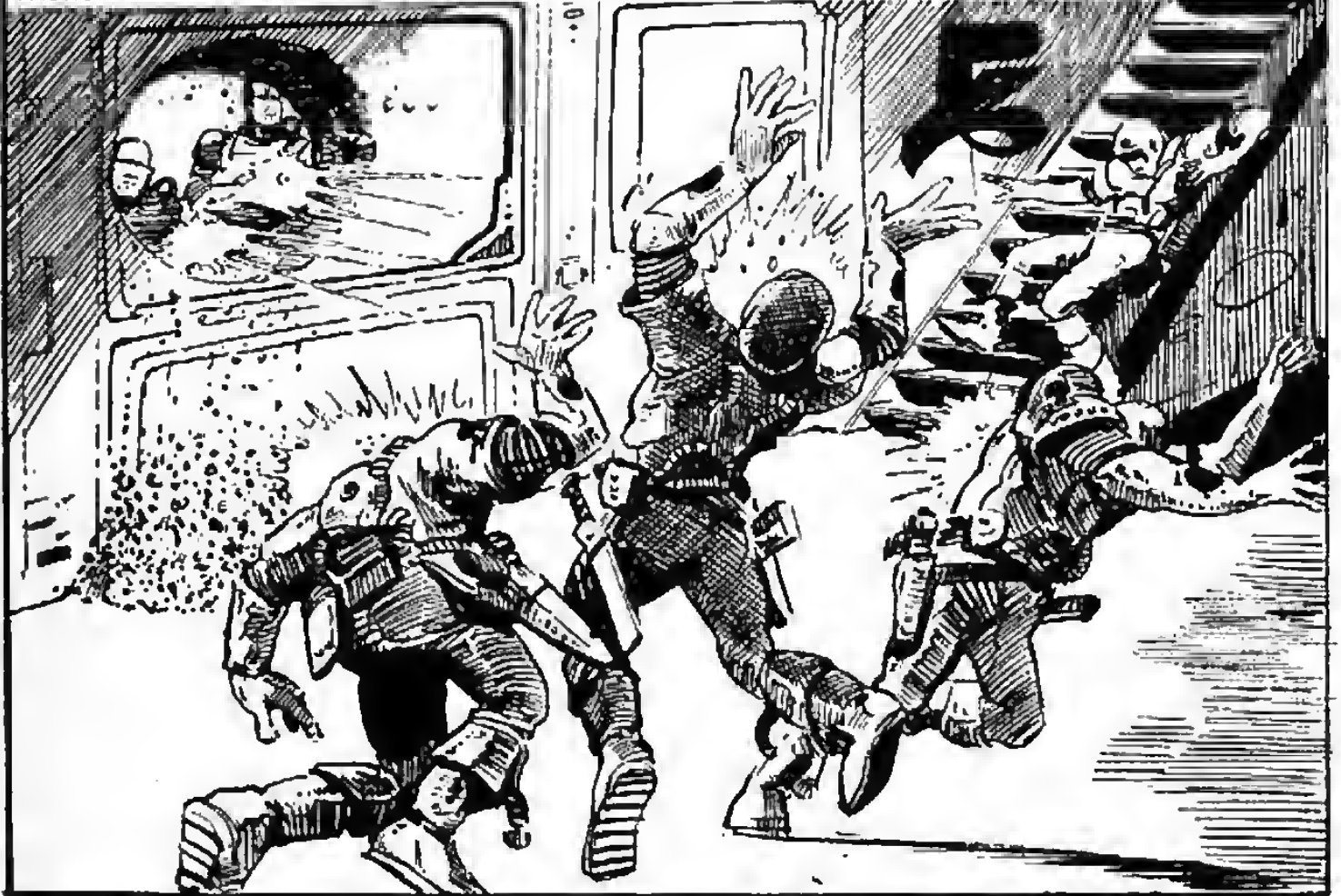


ONCE ACROSS, KONRAD TOOK AN 'X-SCAN' THROUGH THE WALL.

THERE ARE NO ALARM CIRCUITS — JUST SOME MAFOS! FIX A SONIC MINE AND GET READY TO BLAST THEM THE MOMENT THE WALL CRUMBLES!

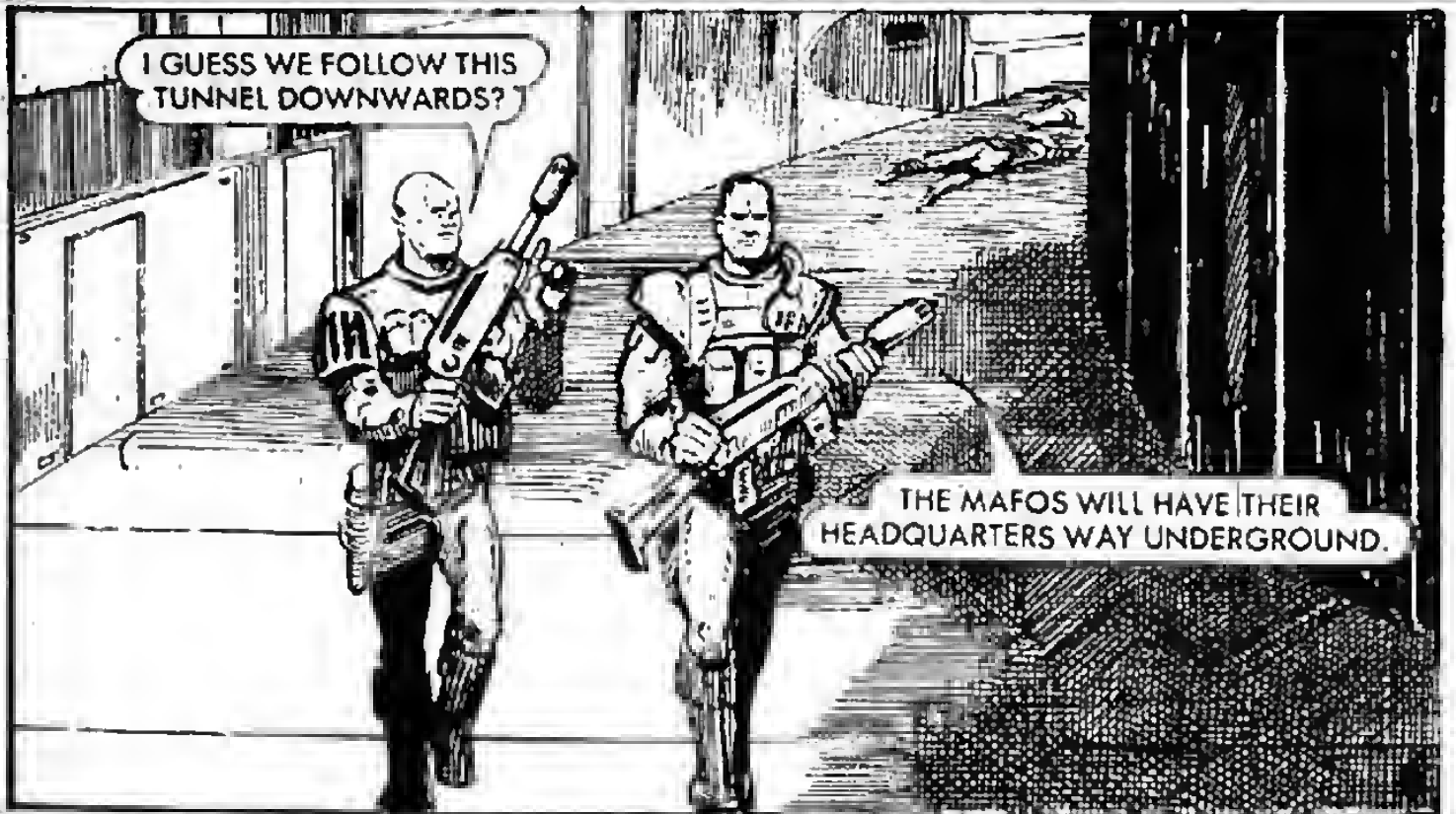


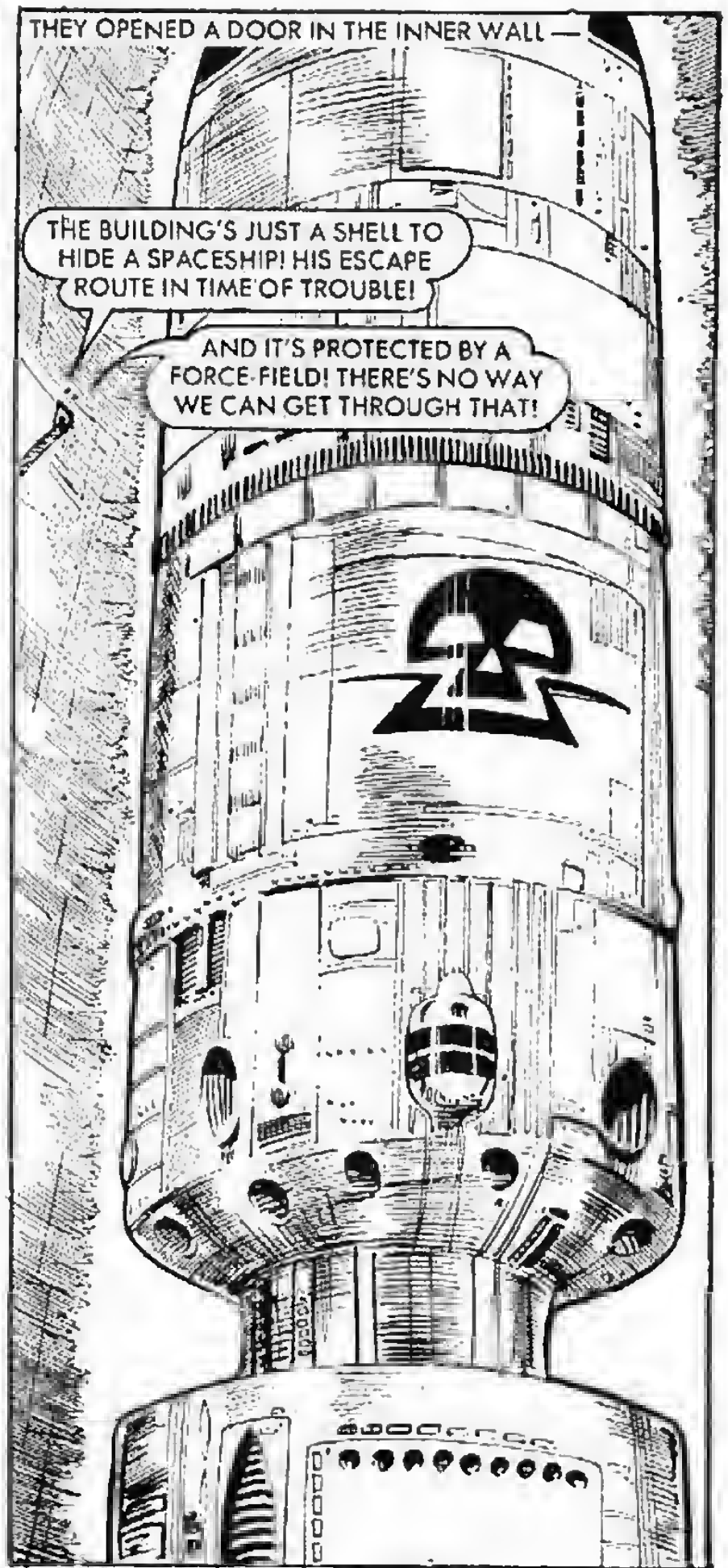
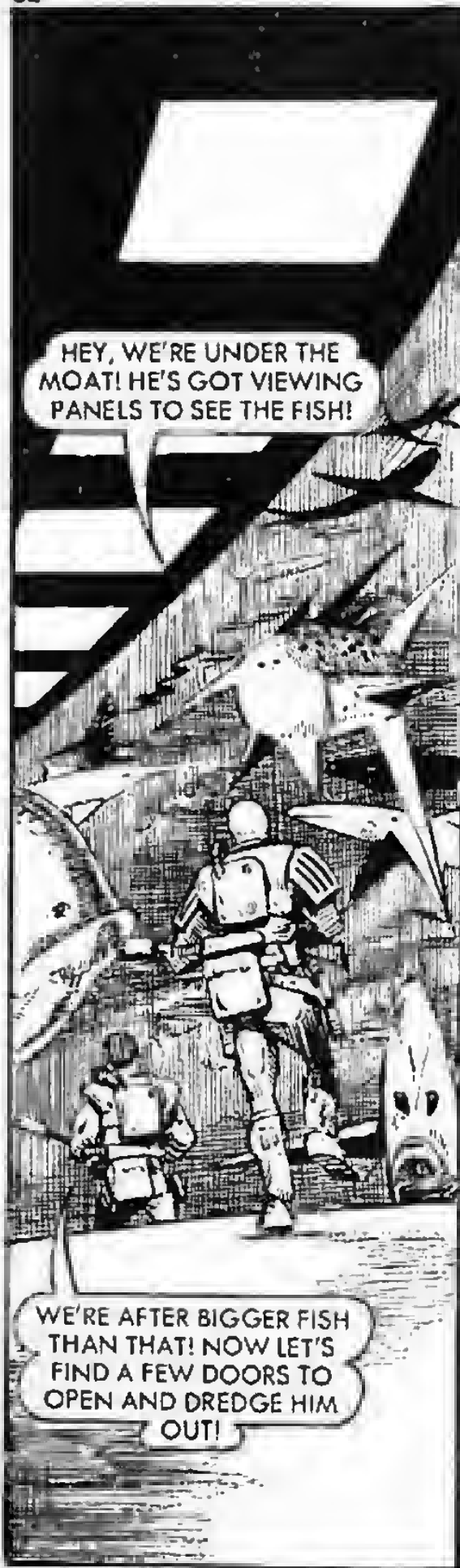
THERE WAS A SLIGHT HUMMING AS THE SONIC MINE CRUMBLIED A HOLE IN THE WALL.

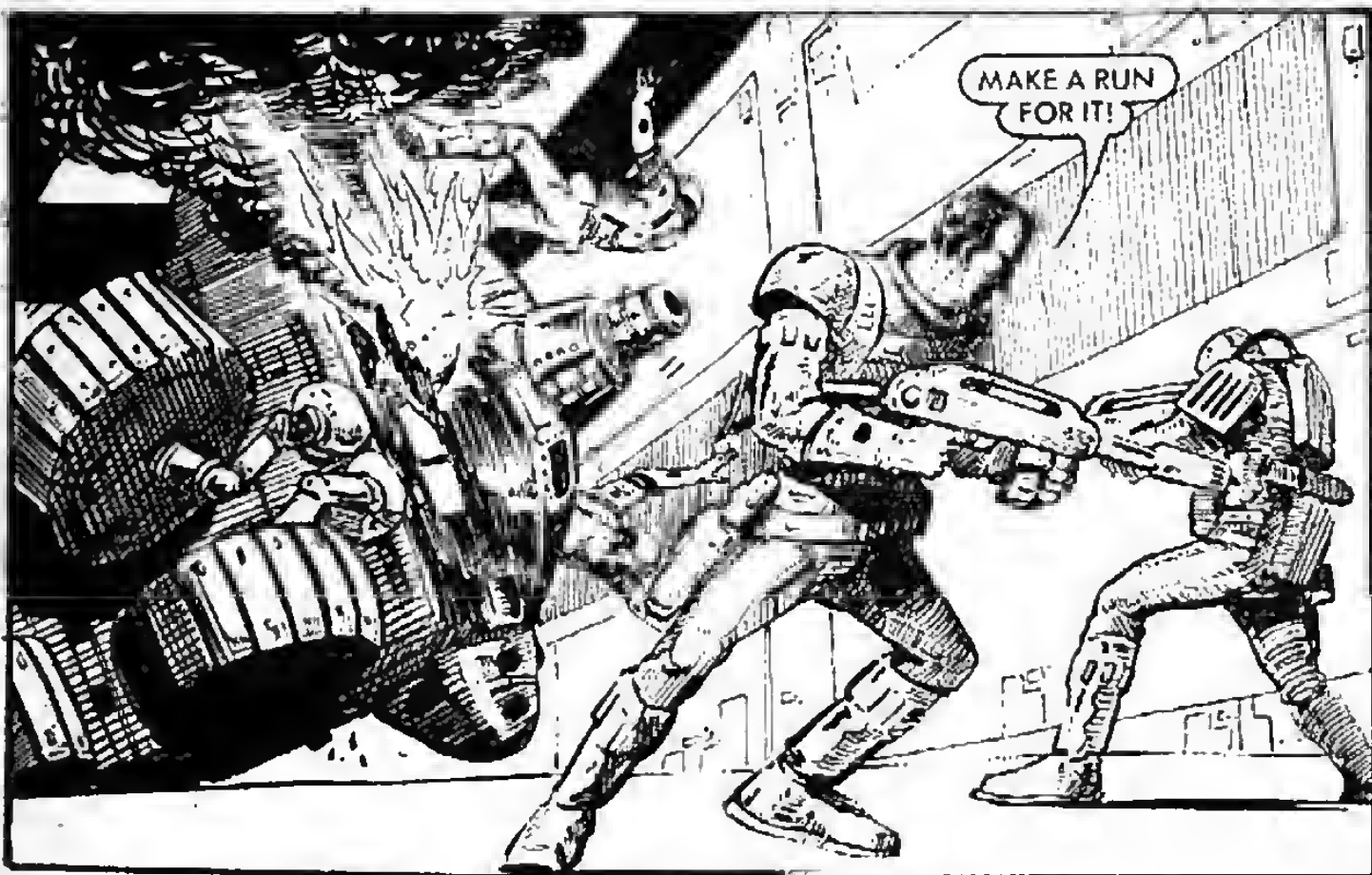
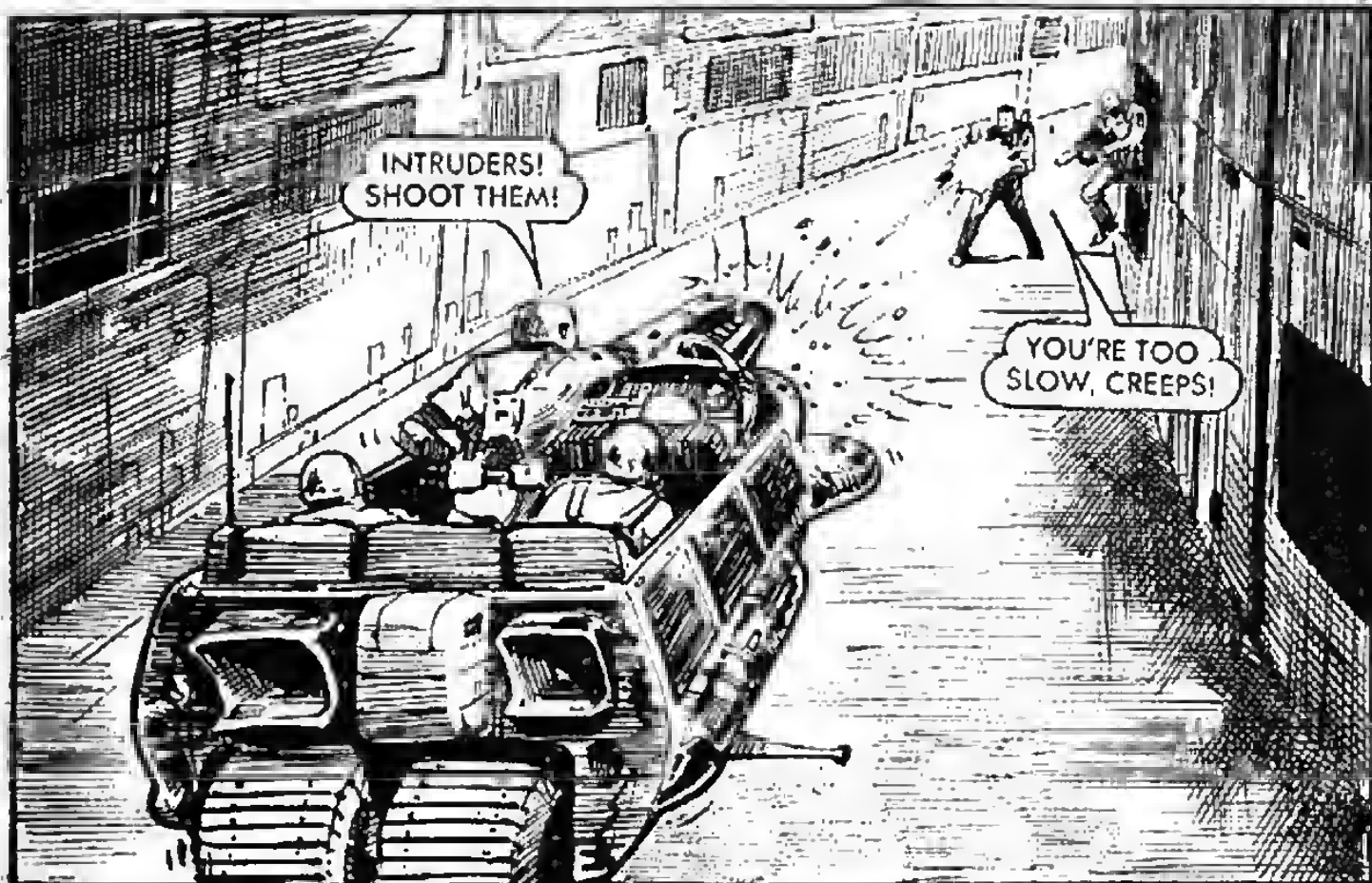


I GUESS WE FOLLOW THIS
TUNNEL DOWNWARDS?

THE MAFOS WILL HAVE THEIR
HEADQUARTERS WAY UNDERGROUND.





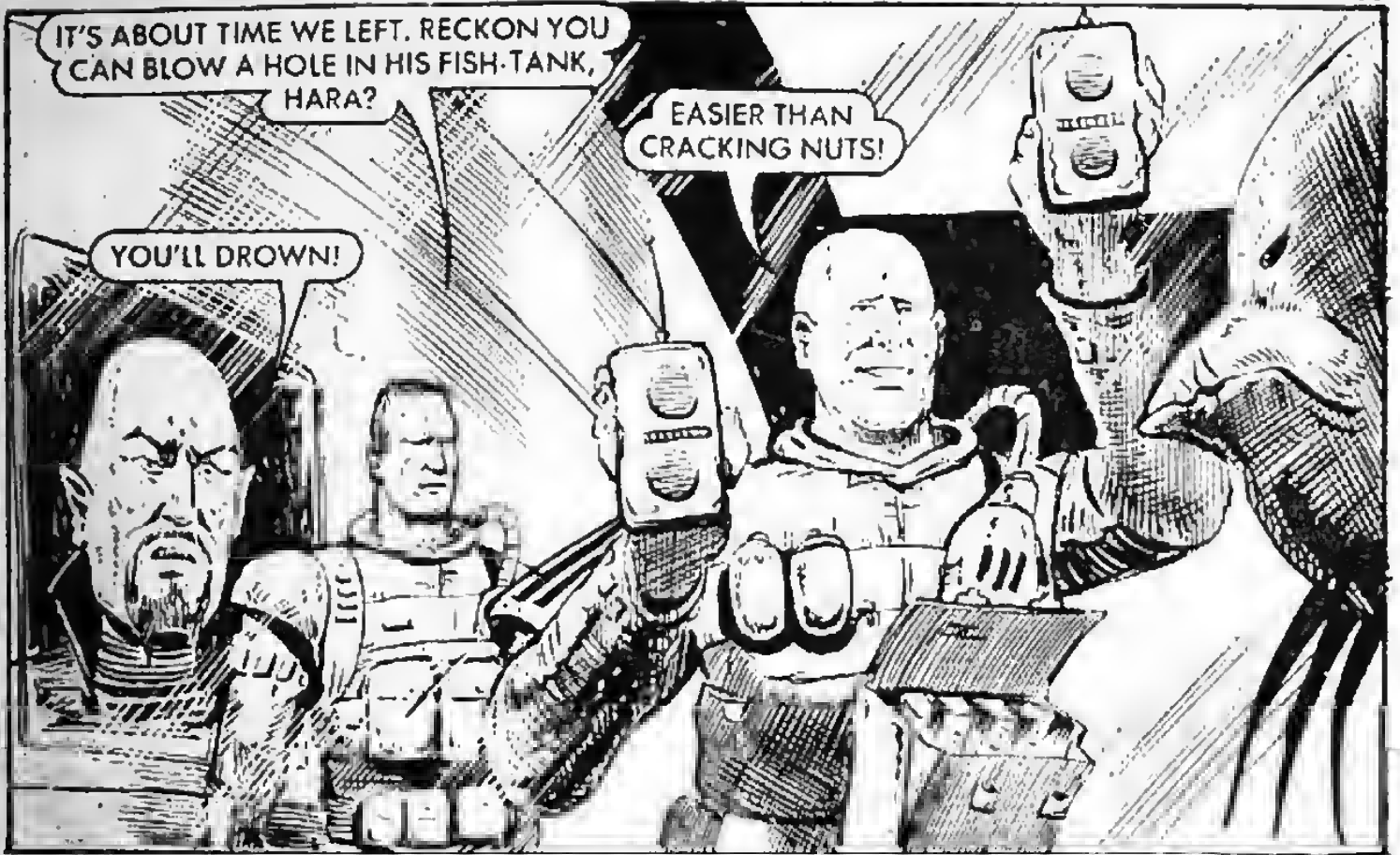


BY THE TRANSPARENT STEEL VIEWING PANELS THEY FOUND THEMSELVES TRAPPED —



SUDDENLY A FACE APPEARED ON A WALL SCREEN —





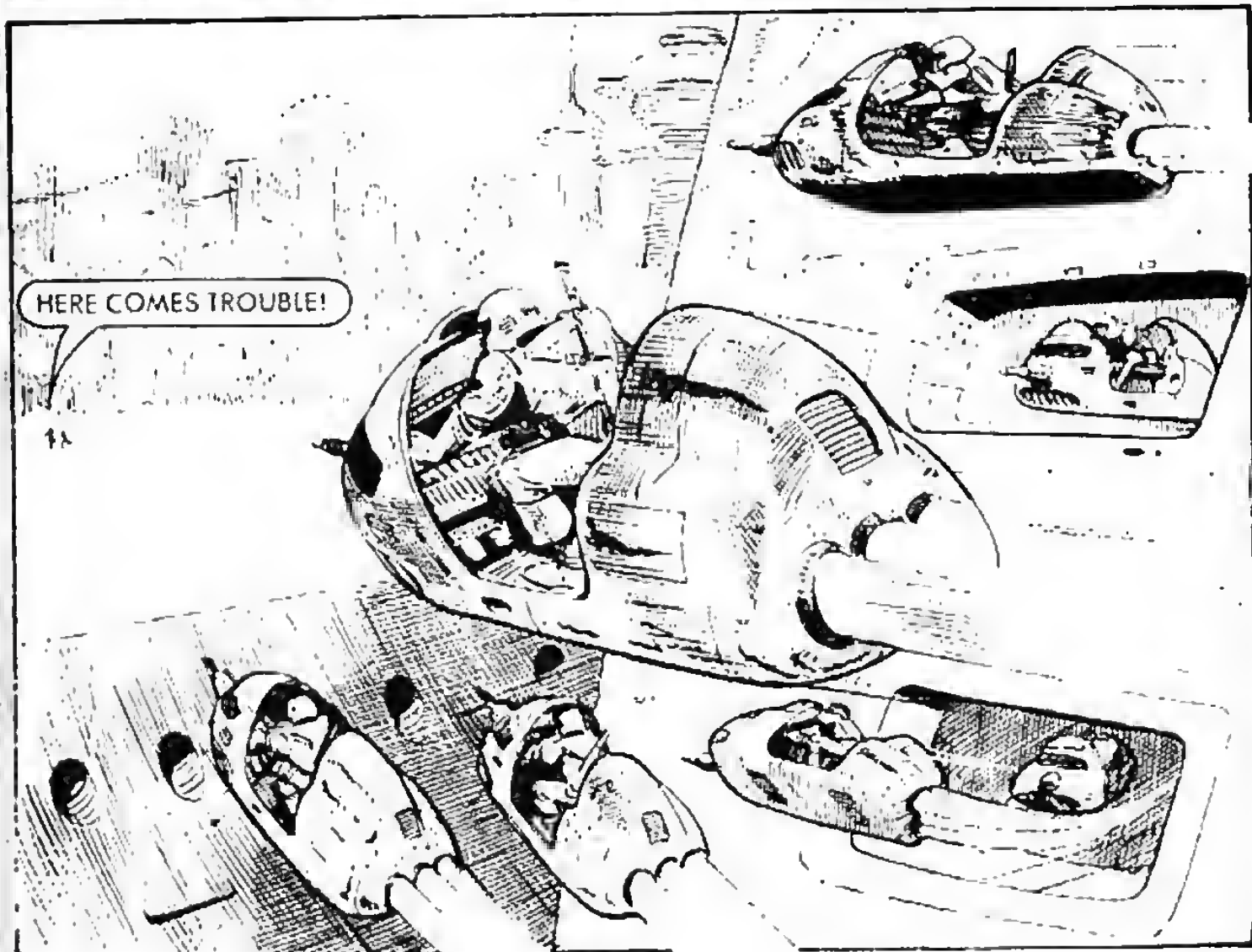
AS THE WALL DISINTEGRATED, THOUSANDS OF TONS OF WATER BURST INTO THE TUNNEL —



THERE WERE ONLY TWO SURVIVORS — KONRAD AND HARA.

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS
MOAT BEFORE THEY GET
ORGANISED!





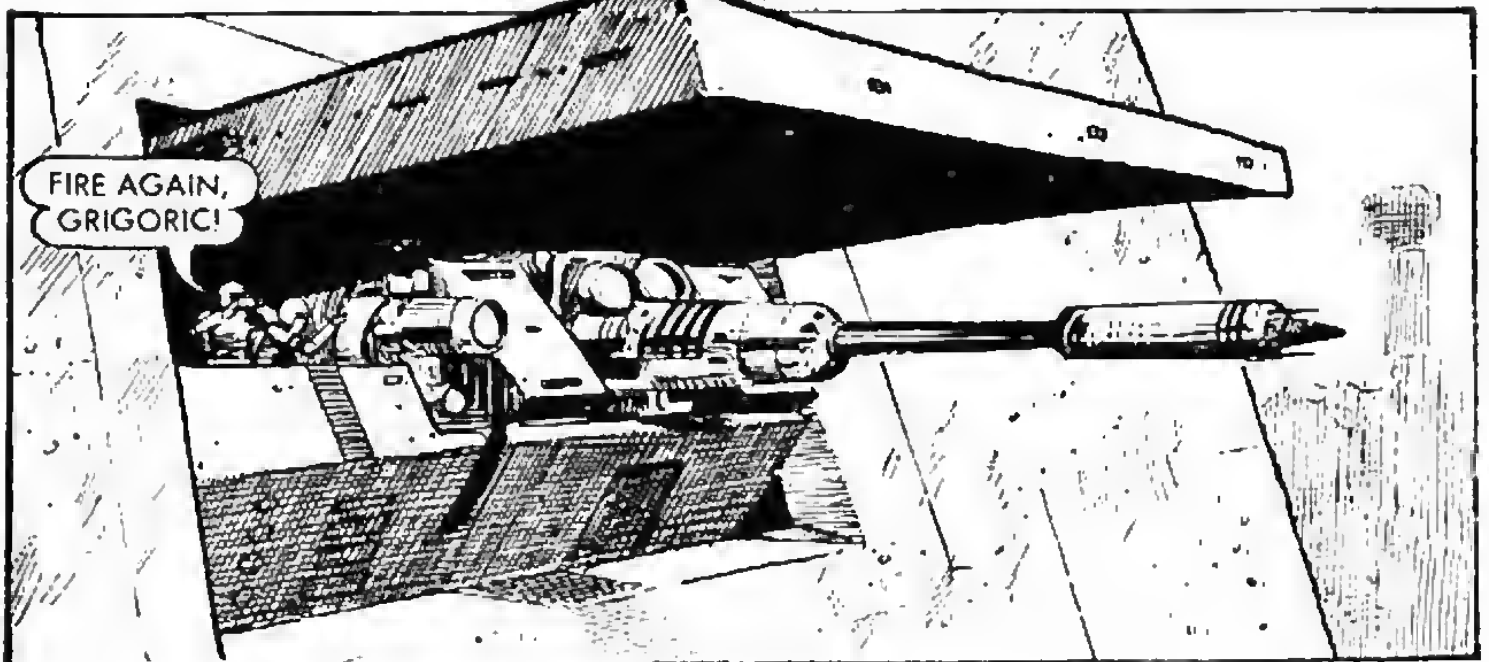


AS THEY DIVED, KONRAD'S MEN DROPPED THEIR CHAMELEON CLOAKS AND BLASTED THE RIOT BIKES —





BEFORE THEY COULD FIRE, AN EXPLOSION BLEW THE MISSILE CREW APART —



GRIGORIC DIDN'T HAVE TIME — THE ENTIRE BUILDING SUDDENLY ERUPTED INTO THE AIR ON A COLUMN OF BOILING WATER.



WHAT IN THE BLUE NOVAES HAPPENED?

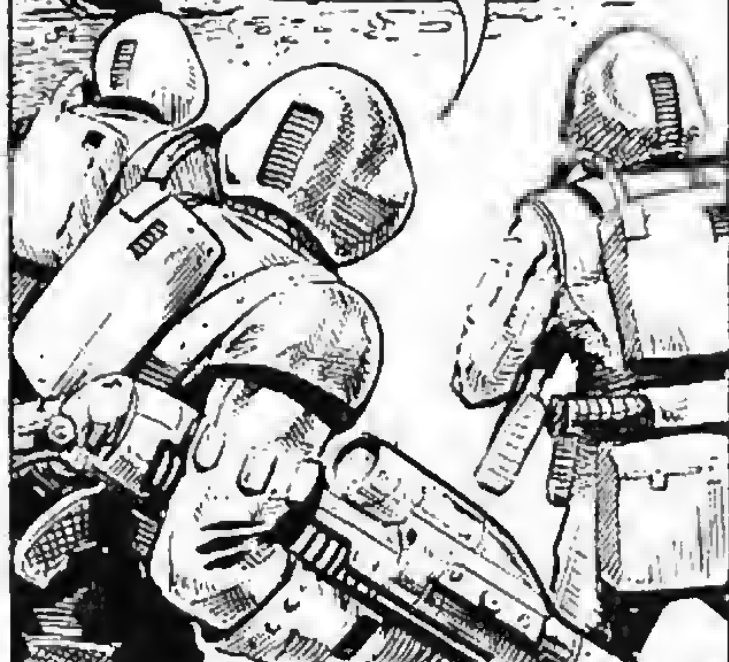
IT'S THE MOAT WATER! WHEN IT HIT THE FORCE-FIELD IT BOILED! THE STEAM PRESSURE BECAME TOO GREAT...

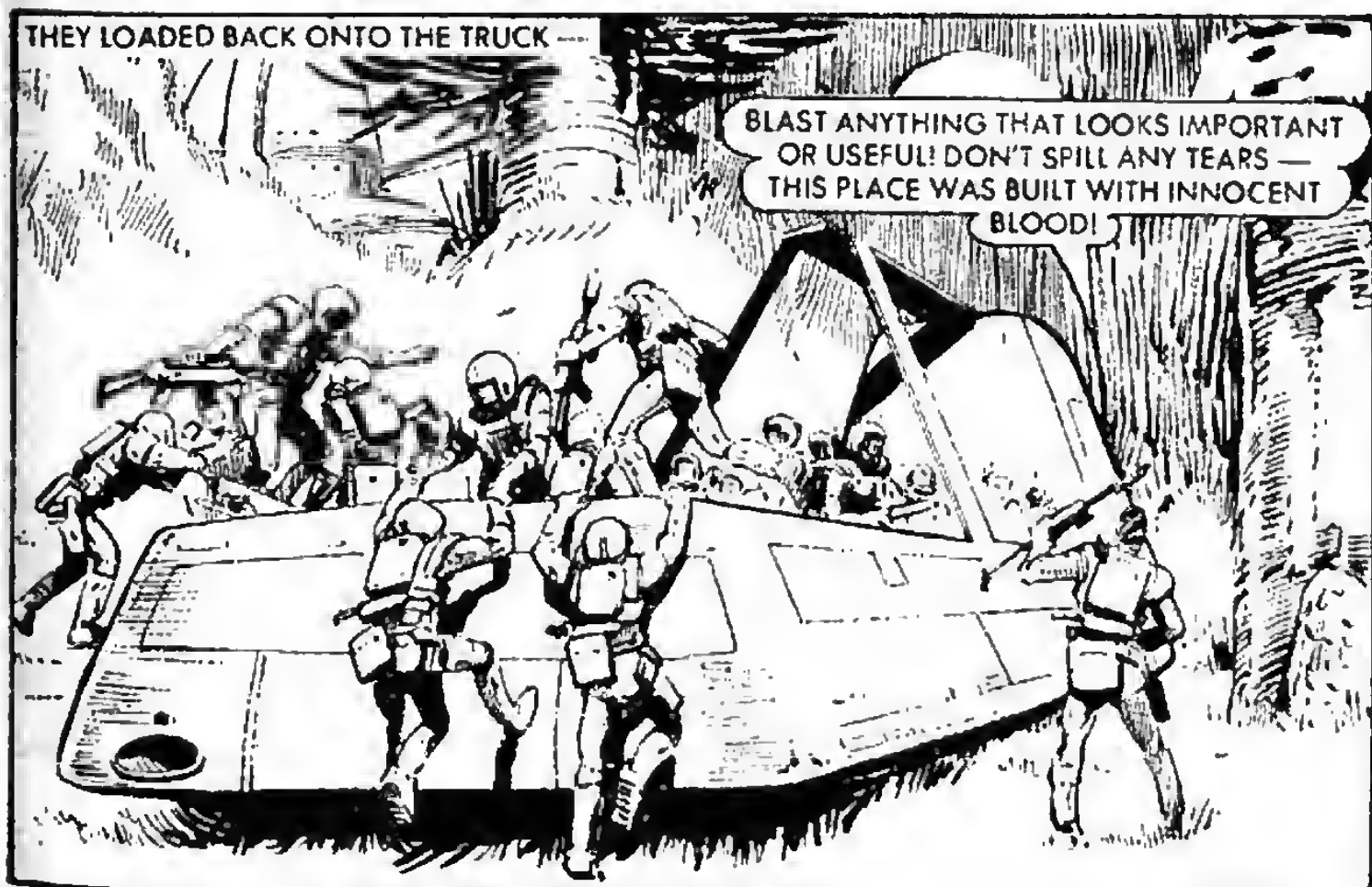


THE DEBRIS CLEARED TO REVEAL THE TOP OF MAFOS'S UNDAMAGED SHIP.

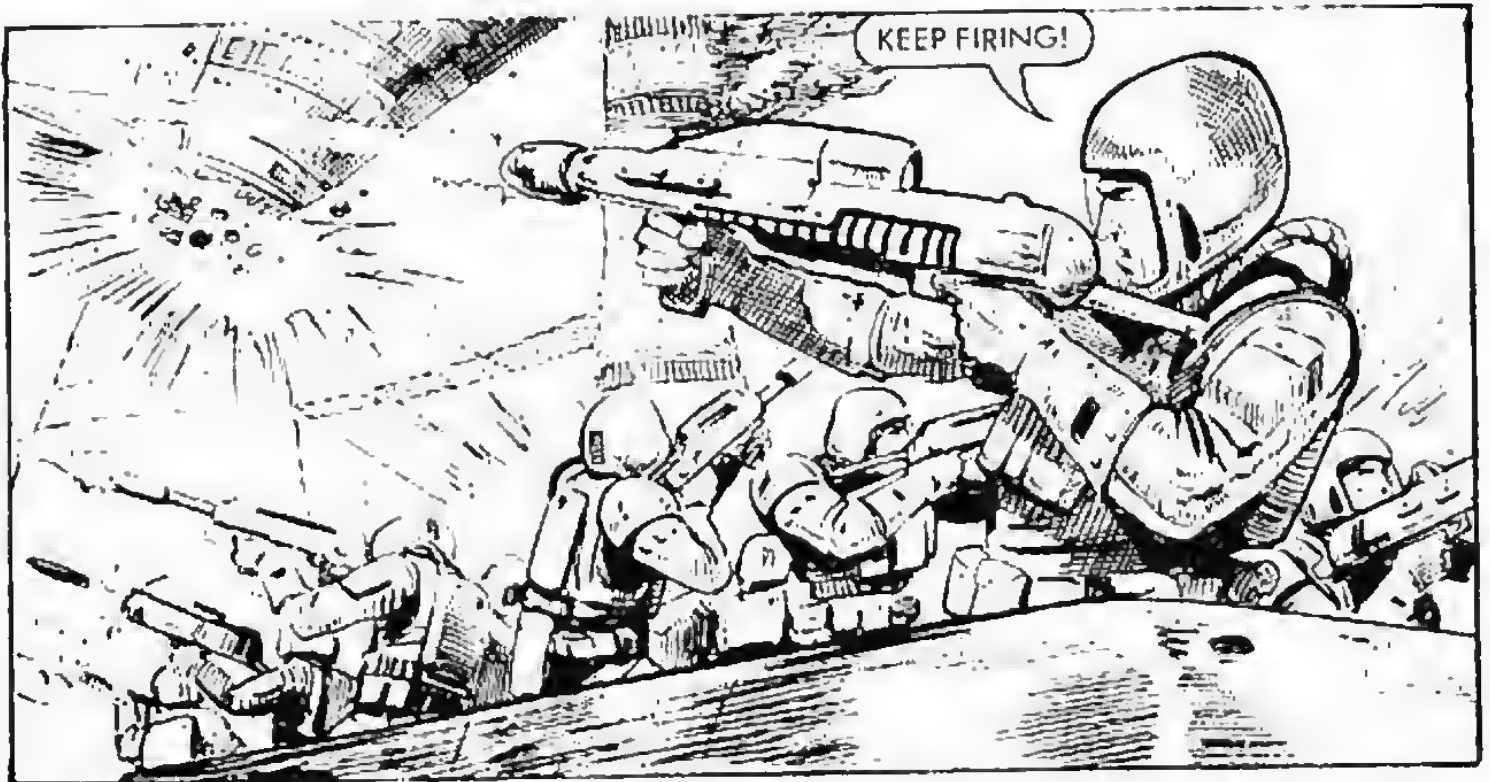
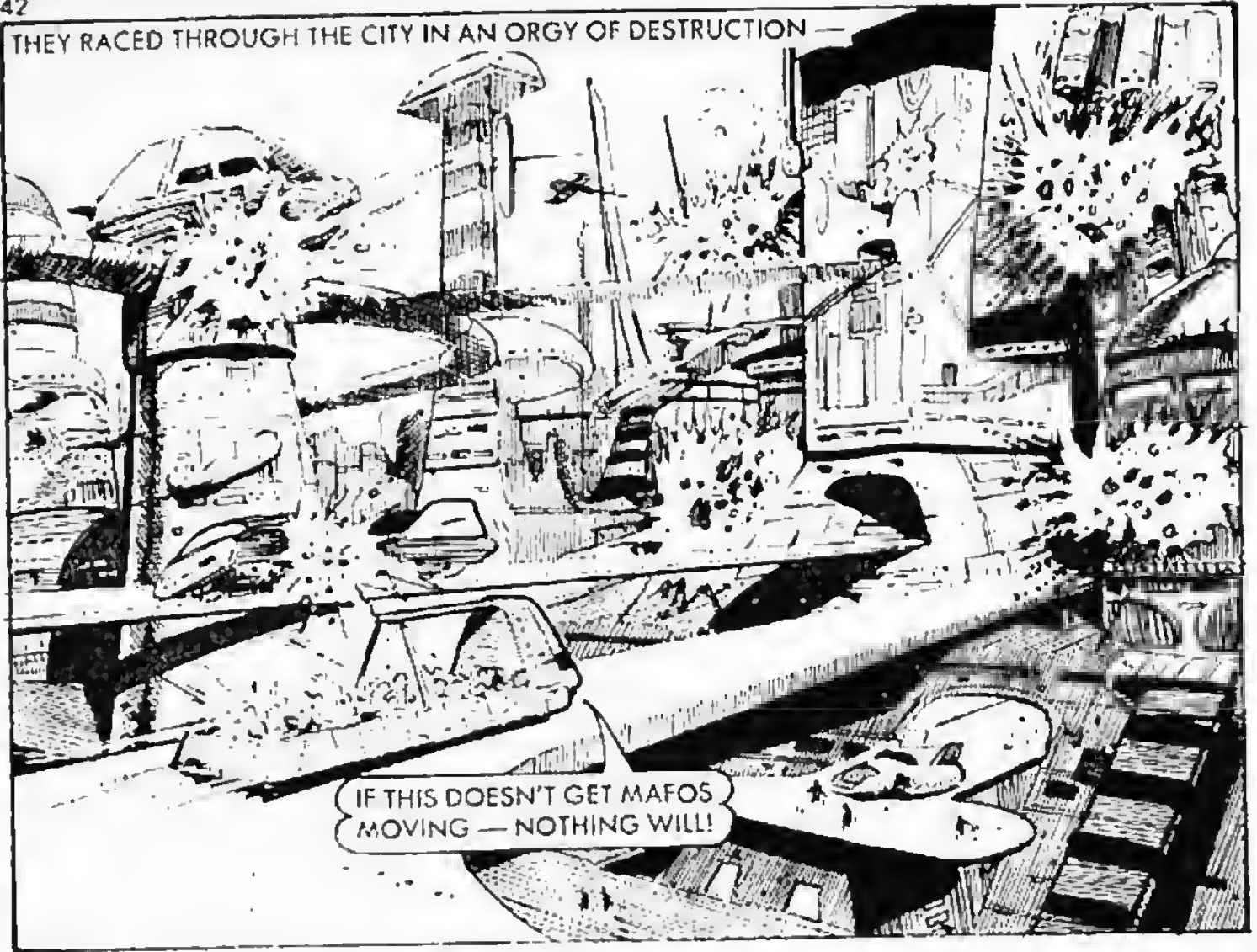


THAT REALLY BLEW HIS COVER!

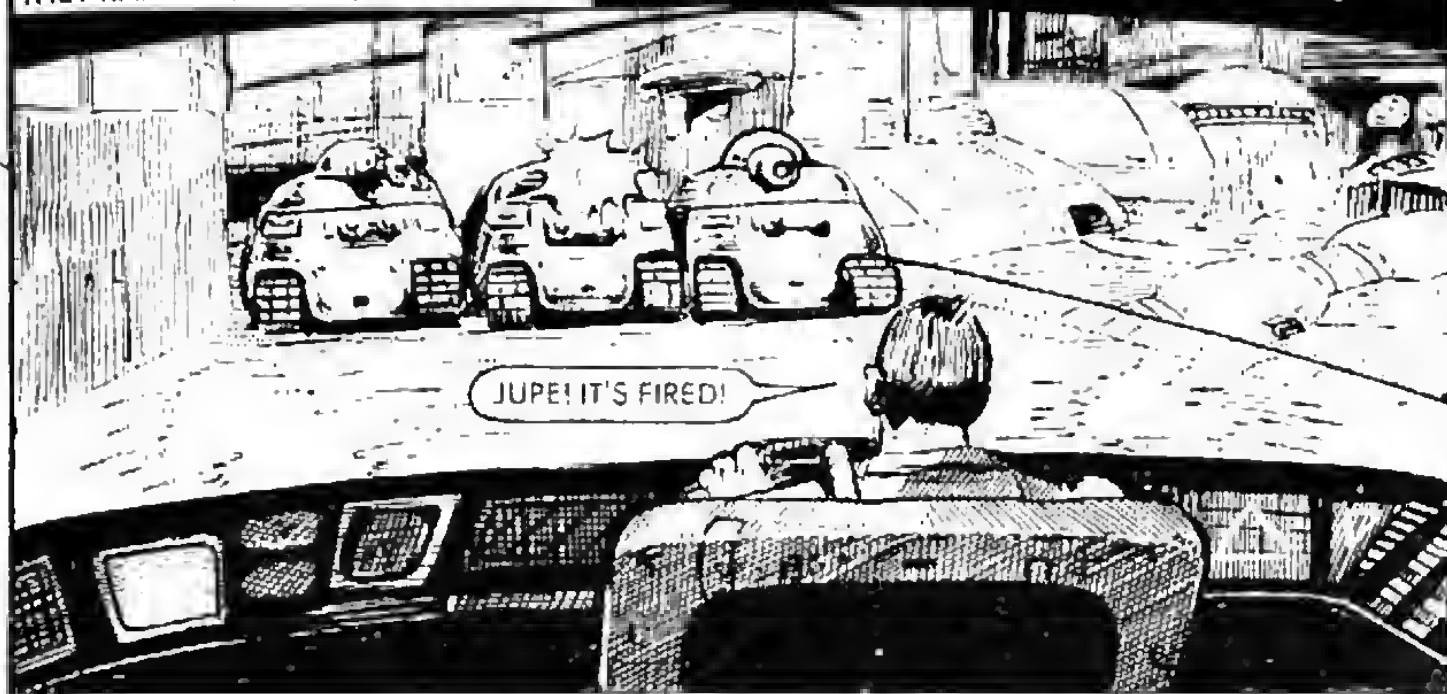




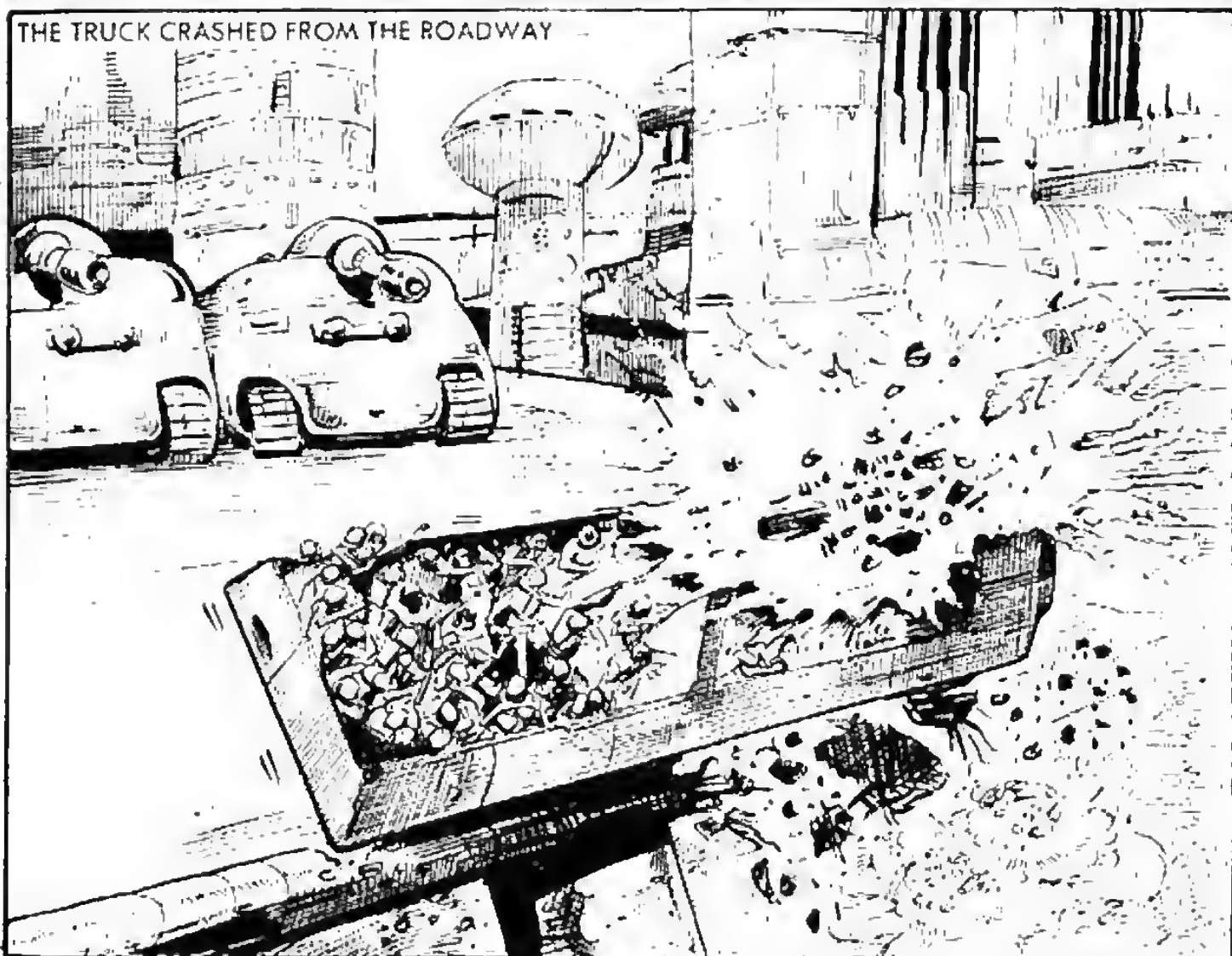
THEY RACED THROUGH THE CITY IN AN ORGY OF DESTRUCTION —




THEY RAN INTO A BLOCK OF TANKS —



THE TRUCK CRASHED FROM THE ROADWAY —




4.
USING REVERSE FLOW ON THEIR STATIC UNITS THEY CAME TO NO HARM —



A black and white comic book panel depicting a military scene. In the foreground, a large, angled structure, possibly a ramp or a piece of heavy machinery, dominates the view. It has several dark, rectangular openings along its side. To the left, a group of soldiers in helmets and combat gear are positioned in a trench-like area. One soldier in the center is looking towards the right. To the right, another soldier is running or moving quickly, pointing his finger towards a building in the background. The background shows a cityscape with buildings and trees. The overall tone is urgent and action-oriented.

WE'RE TOO EXPOSED HERE! MAKE
FOR THE COVER OF THAT BUILDING!



A black and white comic book panel showing a dramatic scene. A large, cylindrical object, possibly a missile or a large barrel, is falling from the sky towards a city. The city is visible in the background, with various buildings and streets. The falling object is angled diagonally across the frame, creating a sense of motion and danger. The city below is shown in a high-angle perspective, with the falling object looming over it. The overall scene is one of impending disaster.

THIS MUST BE THE TALLEST BLOCK! THEY MIGHT
THINK TWICE BEFORE THEY FLATTEN IT ACROSS
THE CITY!

YOU COULD BE RIGHT. THE MAFOS
ARE ALL LEAVING THE BUILDING
AND WE'RE BEING SURROUNDED
BY TANKS!

I'LL BET DONATO IS
COMING TO SUPERVISE MATTERS!

SET FIRE TO
THE TOWER!

SUDDENLY A FIVE HUNDRED FOOT HIGH HOLOGRAM
FILLED THE SKY —

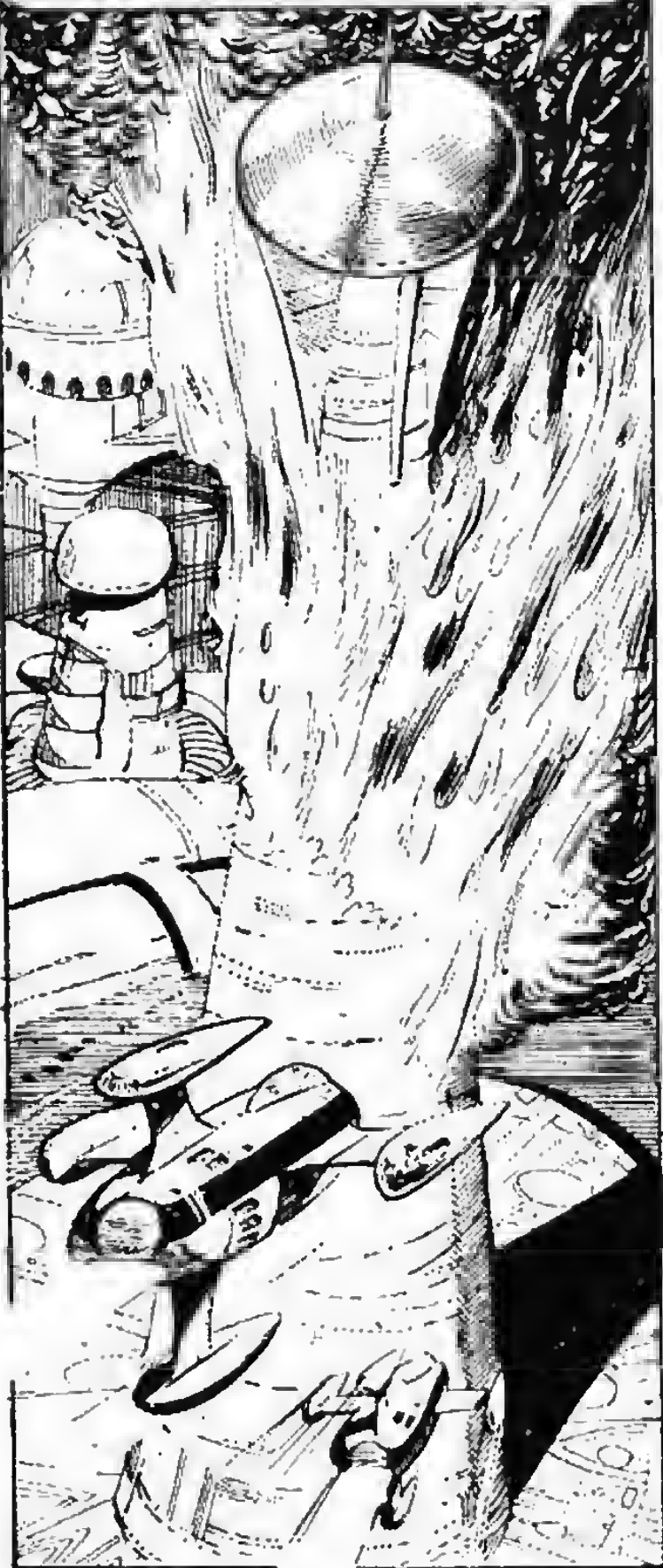
THIS TIME THERE'S NO ESCAPE, MERCENARY!



TANKERS PUMPED TONS OF BURNING LIQUID INTO THE BUILDING.

THE FLAMES ROARED UPWARDS DRIVING THE MERCENARIES RIGHT TO THE TOP —

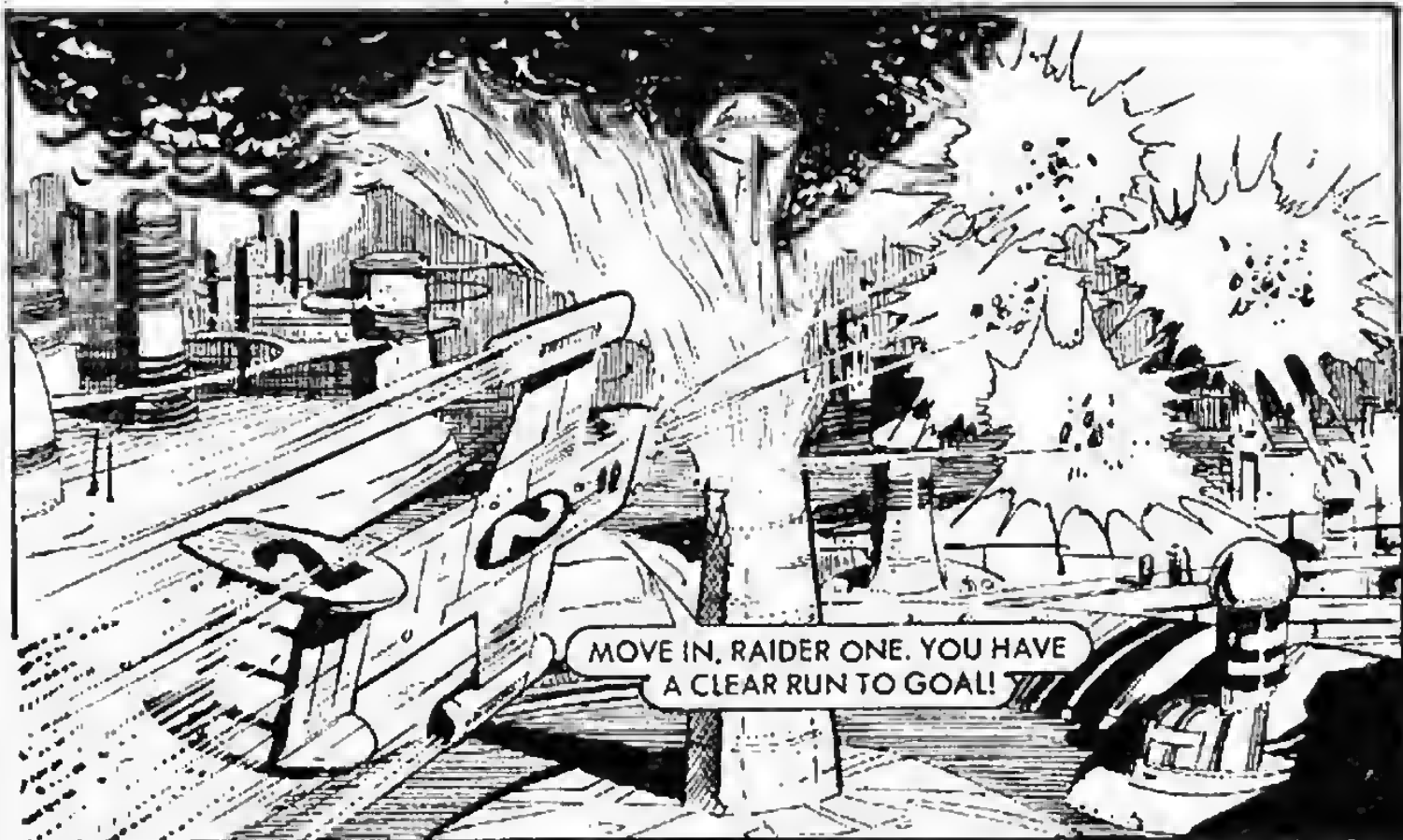
GET RAIDERS ONE AND TWO TO PICK US UP!



WE CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER, KONRAD, THEY'LL PICK US OFF IF WE GO OUTSIDE — THEY'VE GOT STRIKER SHIPS AIRBORNE!

DO YOU COPY THAT, RAIDERS?



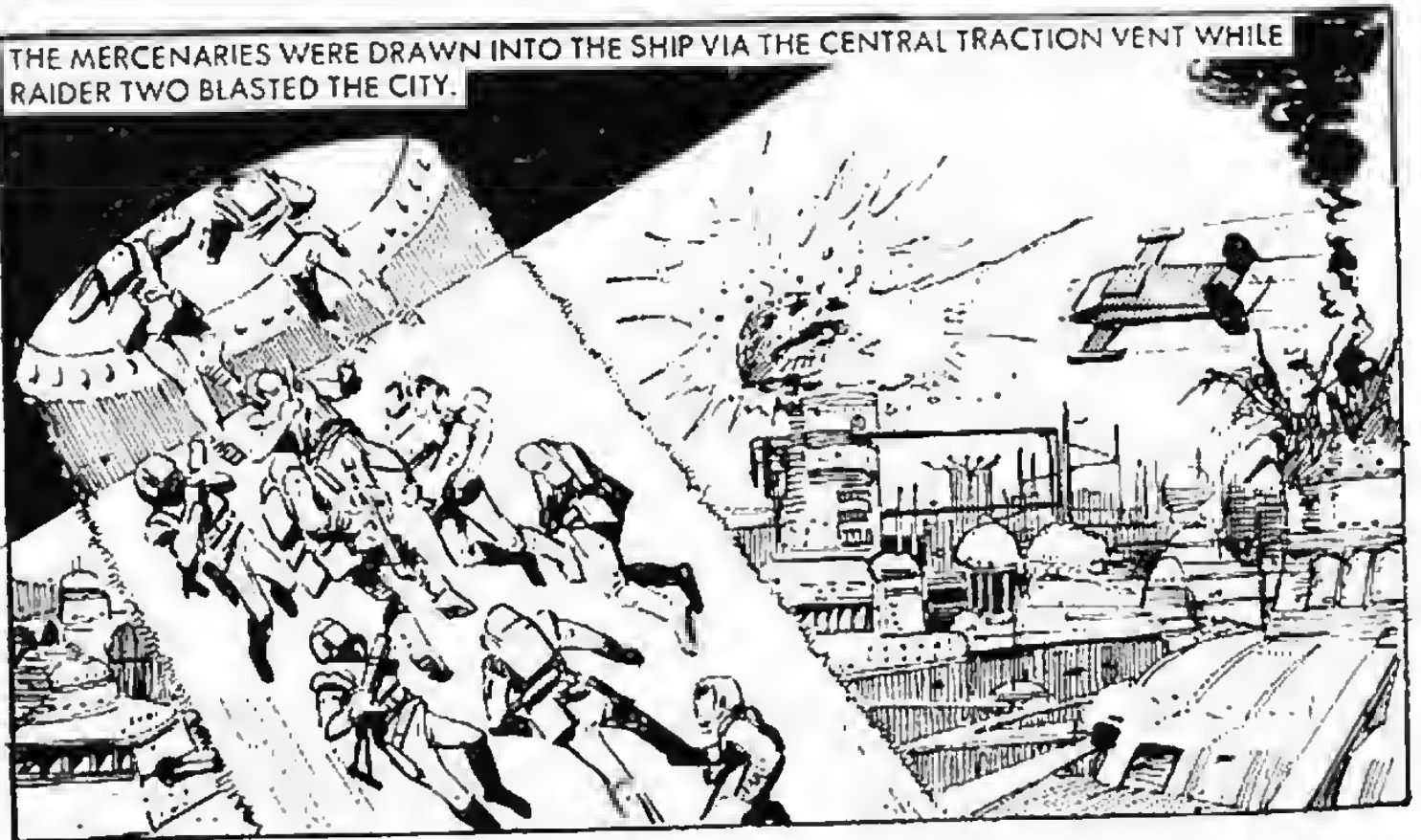


AS THE GROUND FIRE FOLLOWED RAIDER TWO ACROSS THE SKY, RAIDER ONE BLITZED TOWARDS THE TOWER WITH ITS TRACTION BEAMS ON.





THE MERCENARIES WERE DRAWN INTO THE SHIP VIA THE CENTRAL TRACTION VENT WHILE
RAIDER TWO BLASTED THE CITY.



TWO'S BEEN HIT!

THEY WILL BE AVENGED! DONATO
WON'T COMMIT HIMSELF TO
FOLLOWING US INTO SPACE! HE
KNOWS WE'RE THE FASTEST SHIP
IN THE GALAXY!

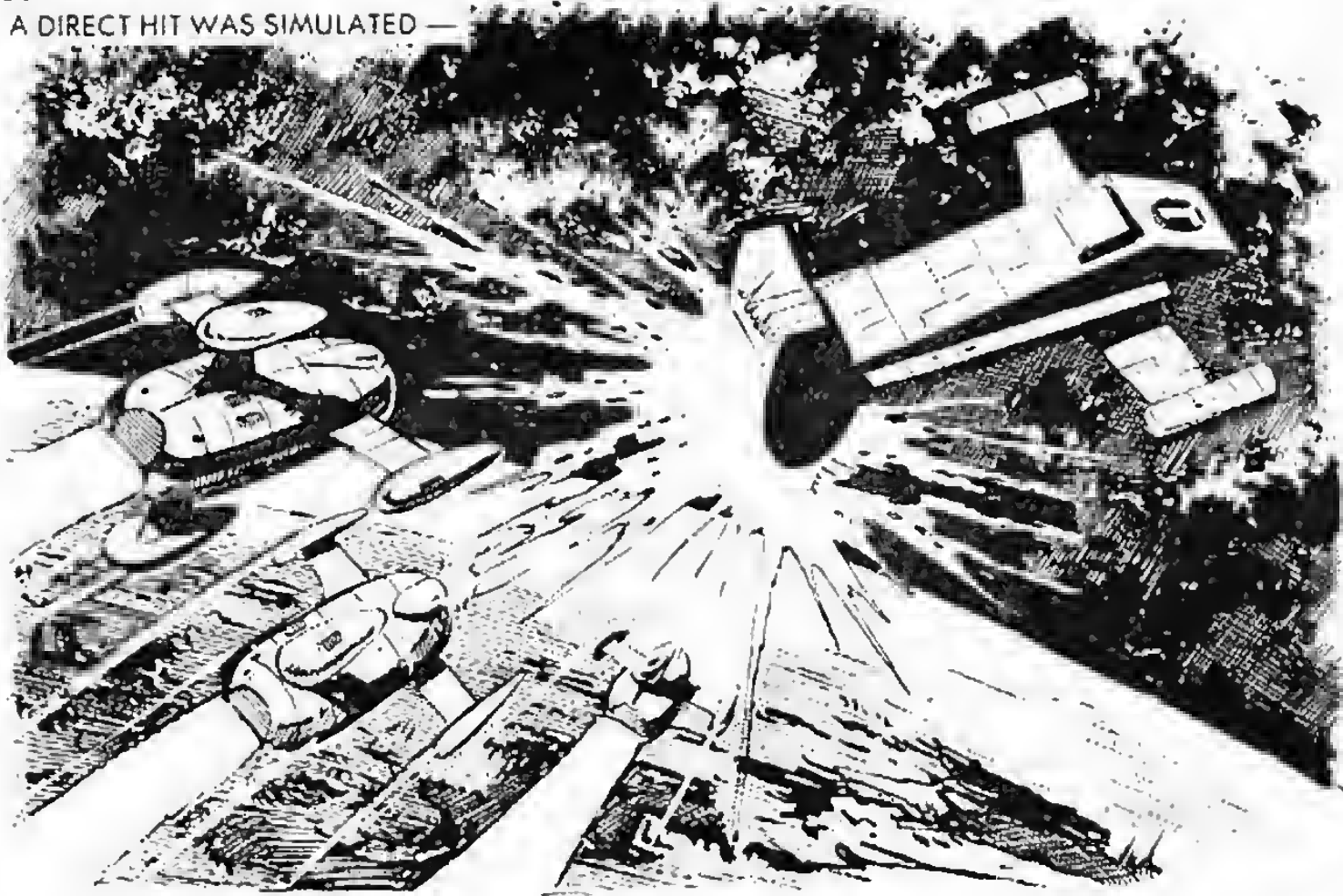
HE WILL IF HE THINKS HE CAN
CATCH US! HE'D COME
RUNNING IF HE BELIEVED
WE'D LOST A THIRD OF OUR
POWER!

THAT'S EASY ENOUGH,
CHIEF. I CAN SIMULATE A
FLAREOUT IN OUR WARP
BOOSTERS!

THE PILOT WAITED UNTIL STRIKER SHIPS CLOSED IN
AND OPENED FIRE.

OKAY, PILOT, PULL
FOR SPACE!

A DIRECT HIT WAS SIMULATED —



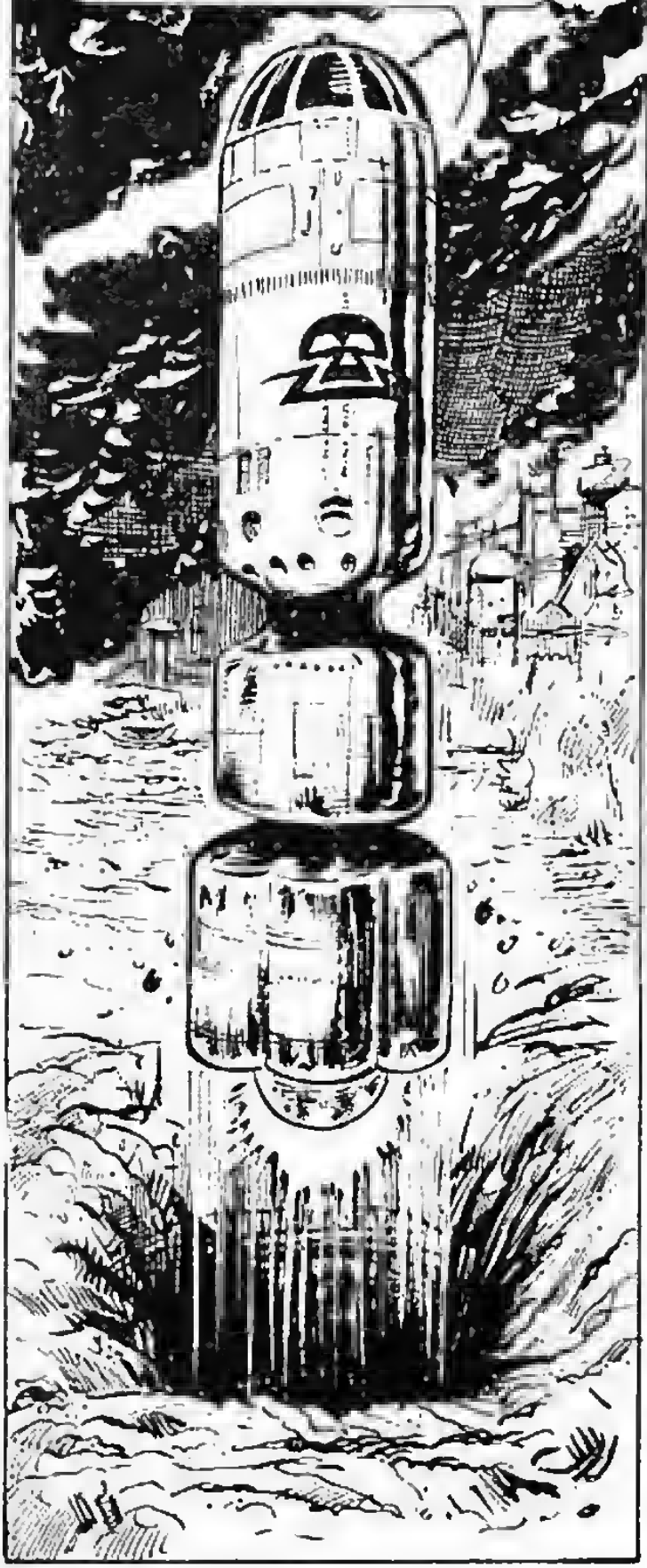
INSIDE HIS SPACESHIP HEADQUARTERS, DONATO WATCHED WITH SATISFACTION.

THEY ARE DAMAGED, SIR, WE NOW
HAVE THE PURSUIT CAPABILITY
TO CATCH THEM!

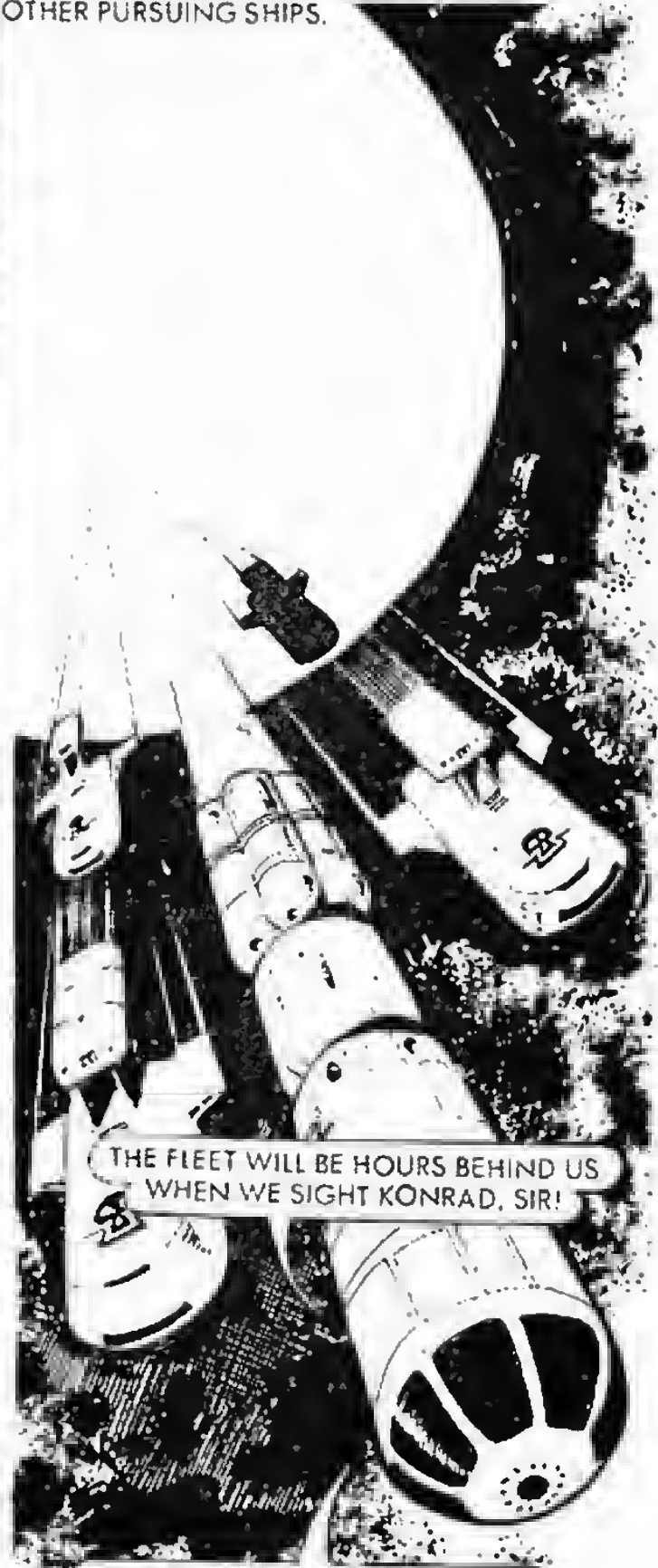
EXCELLENT! LAUNCH THIS SHIP!
I WILL PERSONALLY DESTROY
THE SCUM!



AT MAXIMUM SPEED, THE COMPUTER
PREDICTION IS FOR US TO MAKE
INTERCEPTION IN TWELVE HOURS!



DONATO HAD THE FASTEST SHIP ON HIS PLANET.
IT BURNED INTO SPACE RAPIDLY PASSING HIS
OTHER PURSUING SHIPS.



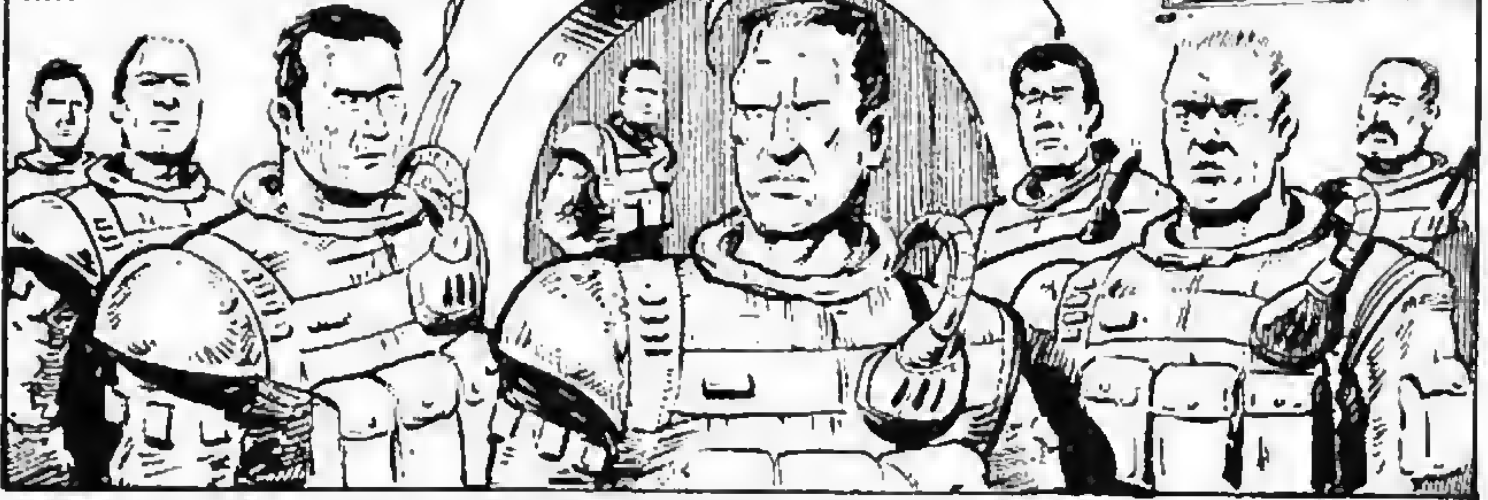
THE FLEET WILL BE HOURS BEHIND US
WHEN WE SIGHT KONRAD, SIR!

NO MATTER! HIS SHIP IS CRIPPLED
AND WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE!

ON KONRAD'S SHIP —

WHAT ARE OUR PLANS NOW, KONRAD?

WE'RE HEADING FOR A HUNTING GROUND OF OUR OWN CHOICE! WE'RE GOING TO ENTER THE MAGNOVOID!



THE MAGNOVOID WAS A VAST MAGNETIC CLOUD, A LIGHT YEAR ACROSS, WHICH PLAYED HAVOC WITH THE SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONICS ON BOARD DEEP SPACE SHIPS.

THERE'S A CRATE IN STORE 'B' FULL OF TWENTIETH CENTURY TYPE FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES. I WANT YOU ALL TO SWOP YOUR PRESENT WEAPONRY FOR THESE!



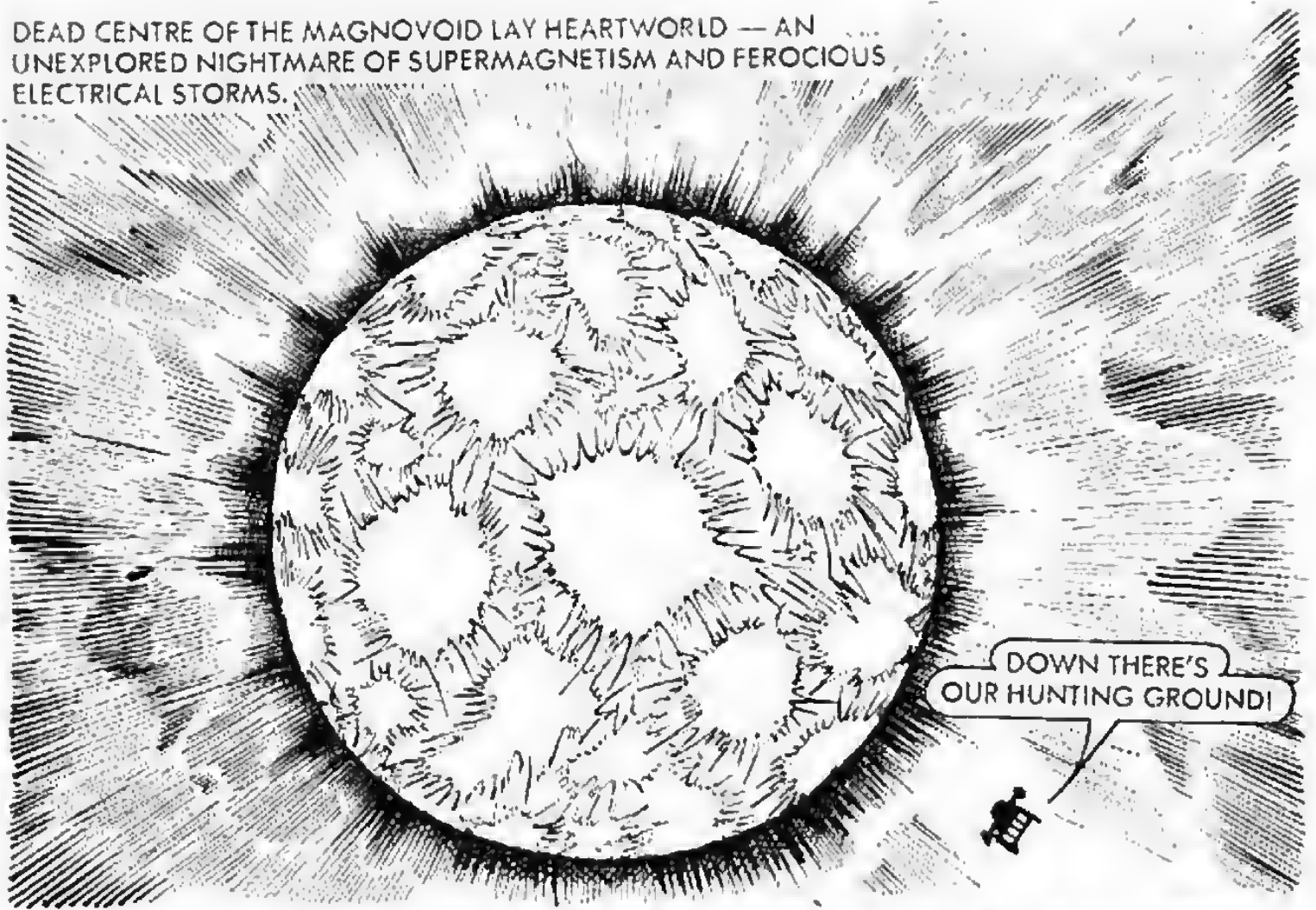
HOURS LATER THEY WERE DEEP IN THE MAGNOVOID —

IS DONATO ON VISUAL YET?

YES, CHIEF, BUT OUR INSTRUMENTS ARE GOING WILD! OUR ATTACK AND DEFENCE SYSTEMS ARE ALL OUT!



DEAD CENTRE OF THE MAGNOVOID LAY HEARTWORLD — AN
UNEXPLORED NIGHTMARE OF SUPERMAGNETISM AND FEROCIOUS
ELECTRICAL STORMS.



DOWN THERE'S
OUR HUNTING GROUND!

DONATO FOLLOWED THEM IN —

WE'RE CLOSING FAST, DONATO, BUT
ALL OUR GUNS ARE INOPERATIVE!

THEN WE'LL
RAM HIM!



KONRAD WAS EXPECTING THE MOVE. AT THE LAST MICRO-SECOND HE TWISTED RAIDER ONE SO THAT DONATO'S SHIP JUST GLANCED ACROSS ITS BACK.

IDIOTS!
TRY AGAIN!

WE CAN'T! WE'RE STUCK
TOGETHER— THE PLANET'S
TOO NEAR! MAGNETISM HAS TAKEN
OVER.

KONRAD TURNED THE TWO SHIPS AND BLASTED TOWARDS THE
PLANET —

THE FOOL WILL KILL US! WE
MUST SEPARATE! ACTIVATE
RETROS!

IT'S NO USE! THEY'LL HAVE TO
ACTIVATE THEIRS AS WELL!

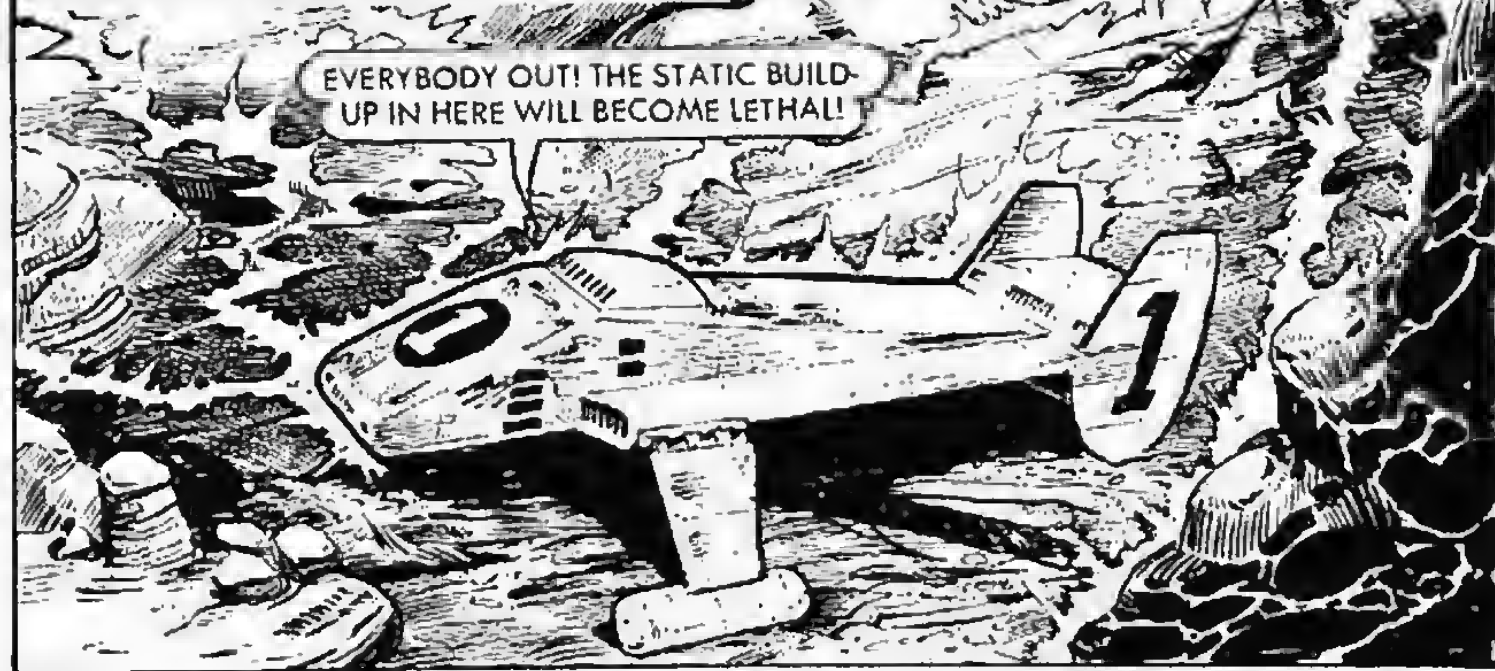
THE TWO SHIPS WERE ALMOST AT GROUND LEVEL
WHEN KONRAD FIRED HIS RETROS.

EMERGENCY LANDING! COMPLETE
SYSTEMS FAILURE IMMINENT!



THE CRAFT MADE ROUGH LANDINGS A MILE
APART. LIGHTNING RIPPED THE SKIES AND STATIC
ELECTRICITY FLICKERED ACROSS THE ROCKS —

EVERYBODY OUT! THE STATIC BUILD-
UP IN HERE WILL BECOME LETHAL!



RACE IT TO DONATO'S SHIP! HE'S
JUST MAD ENOUGH TO TRY A
TAKE-OFF — AND I WANT HIM
ALIVE!



BUT DONATO WAS ALREADY HEADING TOWARDS KONRAD'S MEN.

HE TRICKED ME INTO THIS CORNER
OF HELL, BUT I WILL MAKE IT HIS
GRAVE!





THEIR WEAPONS EXPLODED AS THE PLANET'S STRANGE ELECTRICAL FORCES DISRUPTED THE COMPLICATED CIRCUITS —



BUT THE MERCENARIES' PRIMITIVE WEAPONS WORKED PERFECTLY, POURING A HAIL OF LEAD INTO THE STUNNED MAFOS —

FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES, COMRADES!



KONRAD SAW DONATO —

I WANT YOU, DONATO!



THEY COLLIDED IN A COLLOSAL DISCHARGE OF STATIC ELECTRICITY WHICH BLASTED THEM INTO A DEEP RAVINE.



DONATO RECOVERED MORE QUICKLY.

WE'RE COLLECTING STATIC FROM THE AIR AND THE SLIGHTEST CONTACT DISCHARGES IT!



HE'S WORSE OFF THAN ME — HE'S STILL GROGGY!



DONATO BATTERED THE DAZED KONRAD WITH
FISTS OF PARALYSING POWER.



MAFOS PAUSED AS THE ROAR OF STAR-DRIVES FILLED THE AIR —

MY SHIP! THEY'RE
LEAVING WITHOUT ME!



BUT THE FORCES WERE TOO GREAT, THE ENGINES WENT OUT OF PHASE AND THE SHIP FELL
BACK TO EARTH AND EXPLODED.



A PIECE OF HIS OWN SHIP SEALED HIS FATE.



KONRAD'S MEN FOUND THEM LATER—
YOU OKAY, CHIEF?

YEAH! HOW'S DONATO?

HE'S ALIVE — BUT
NOT FOR LONG!



YOU'VE LOST, KONRAD! YOU'LL NEVER GET OFF THIS PLANET. YOUR SHIP WILL GO JUST LIKE MINE DID!



THEN YOU WON'T MIND SHARING YOUR SECRETS WITH ME?

WHERE DO YOU KEEP THE CODE-KEYS FOR YOUR PLANET BOMBS?

MY CAPTAINS ALL HAVE ONE EACH!



I DON'T GET IT! WHAT'S TO STOP THEM TURNING ON YOU AND BEING BOSS?

THIS CODE-KEY DOES! I HAVE A BOMB ON MY PLANET. THEY DO WHAT I TELL THEM OR LOSE EVERYTHING!



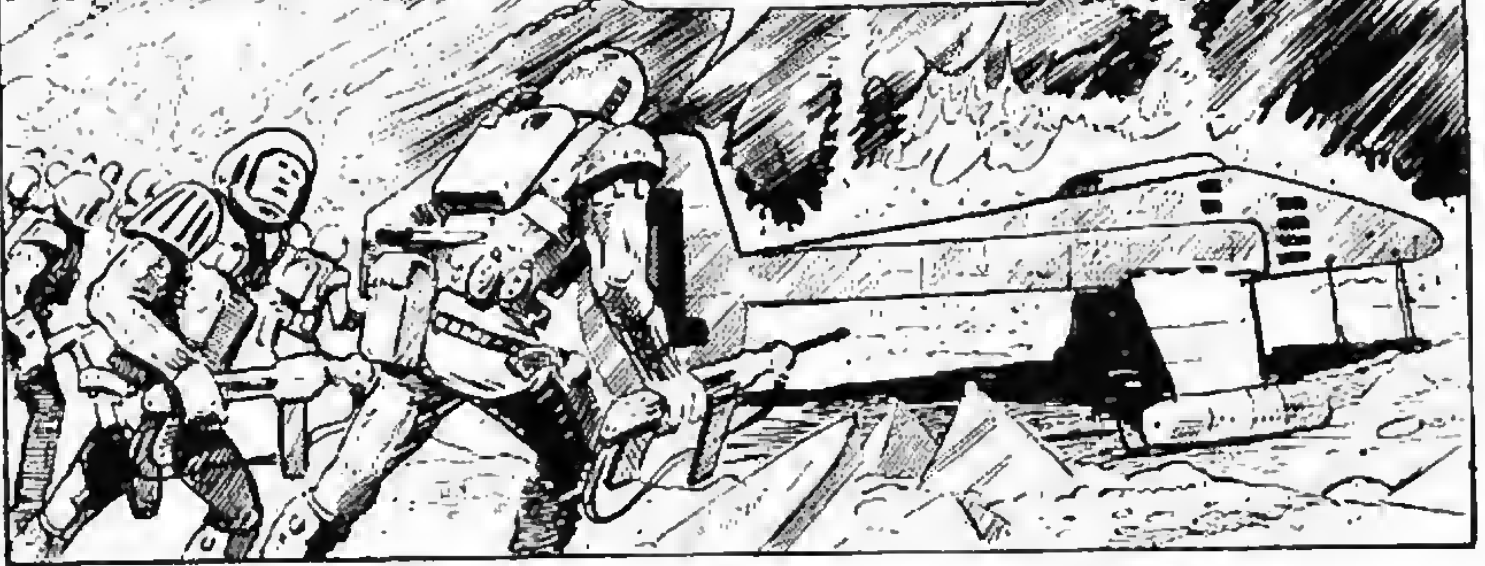
I'LL TAKE THAT!



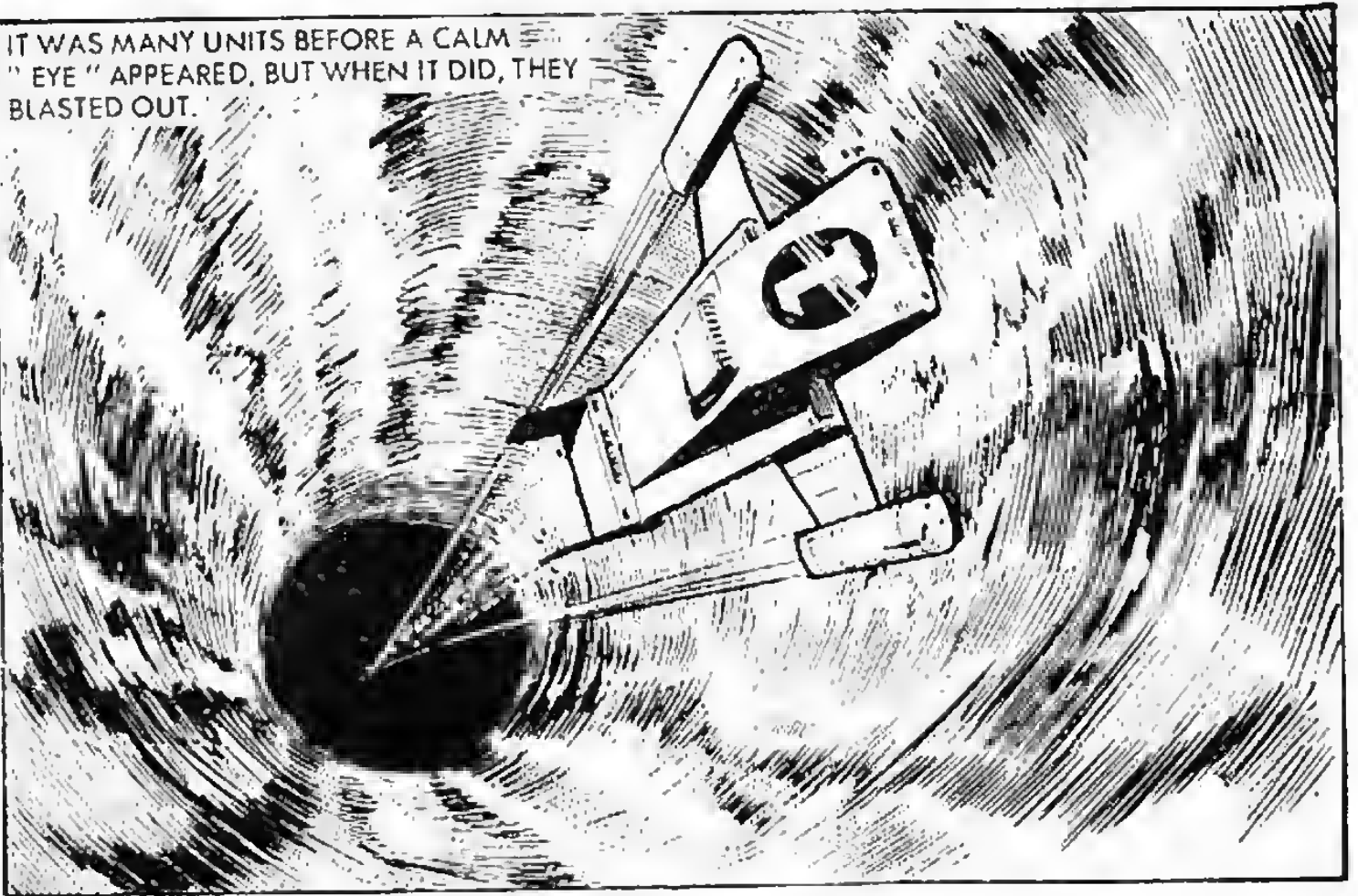
IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD, YOU'RE ALL DEAD MEN...

HE'S RIGHT, CHIEF! THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN
SHIELD THE SHIP FROM THIS PLANET!

THE ELECTRO MAGNETIC HURRICANES
THAT SWEEP THIS PLANET HAVE AN
'EYE' LIKE WIND HURRICANES! WE
WAIT UNTIL WE'RE IN AN 'EYE' —
THEN BLAST OUT OF HERE.



IT WAS MANY UNITS BEFORE A CALM
'EYE' APPEARED, BUT WHEN IT DID, THEY
BLASTED OUT.



WHEN THEY CLEARED THE MAGNOVOID, THEY FOUND THE MAFOS FLEET
WAITING FOR THEM.

NOW HEAR THIS, VERMIN! DONATO IS DEAD AND I
HAVE HIS CODE-KEY!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?



THE BOMBS WERE ALL DEACTIVATED AND KONRAD GAVE THE CODE-KEY TO THE NEW WORLDERS.

YOU'LL HAVE NO MORE TROUBLE WITH THE MAFOS! WITH THIS YOU CAN CONTROL THEM — USE IT WELL!



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**DON'T FORGET THIS
MONTH'S *OTHER***

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 115

SABOTAGE WAS THE ONLY WAY
TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE
CRUEL OVERLORDS OF EARTH.

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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Major Michael Collins, 36, USAF, was pilot of the Gemini 10 mission, launched on 18th July, 1966 and lasting 2 days 22 hrs. 46 min. 39 sec. He was mission command module pilot of Apollo 11, launched on 16th July three years later. This mission lasted 8 days 3 hrs. 18 min. 35 sec., and was the mission which first put man on the moon. Collins is now in industry.